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SECOND EDITION

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Ex-IGP Mamun offers to be a state witness

ICT frames charges against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed charges against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two of her former top aides in a case related to the crimes against humanity during the July uprising.

One of her co-accused, former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, pleaded guilty and appealed to become a state witness (a witness for the prosecution).

This is the first time an accused has made such a plea at the ICT since its formation in 2010. This is also the first time accused have been charged at the ICT in a case over atrocities during the uprising.

The charges against the trio include murder, attempted murder, torture, and the use of lethal weapons and other crimes against humanity.

The ICT-1 set August 3 and August 4 for the opening statements of the prosecution and the defence and the recording of witness depositions.

The other person accused in the case, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, remains absconding. Hasina has been in India since she fled to the neighbouring country on August 5 last year.

The trio is also charged with crimes against humanity for their "superior command responsibility, conspiracy, incitement, instigation, facilitation, abetment, complicity, failure to punish, failure to prevent crimes".

Having read out the charges, Judge Md Mohitul Hoque Anam Chowdhury asked ex-IGP Mamun, "Do you plead guilty?"

In a surprise move, with all eyes in the packed courtroom on Mamun, he pleaded guilty.

"I will voluntarily disclose the truth and make full disclosure of the whole of the circumstances within my knowledge relating to the case," the former police chief said.

Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of the ICT, later at a briefing said Mamun had applied to become an approver, and the court has granted the request.

In legal contexts, an approver is a person who, having been involved in a crime, confesses their guilt and agrees to testify against their accomplices in exchange for leniency or immunity.

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Students of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College sharing hugs and smiles after the SSC results were published yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SSC pass rate plunges to a 16-year low

Girls again outshine boys; poor performance in math, English blamed for 68.04% pass rate

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The pass rate in this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations across all nine general education boards has dropped to 68.04 percent, the lowest in 16 years.

The number of GPA-5 achievers also fell sharply from 1,63,845 last year to 1,25,018.

Female students continued to

outperform their male counterparts in both pass rates and GPA scores. Girls have now led in pass rates for nine consecutive years and GPA-5s for eight.

Education officials attributed the 15.73 percentage point decline from last year to poor performance in mathematics, particularly among humanities students, and stricter evaluation.

At a press conference at the Dhaka Education Board, Prof Khondokar Ehsanul Kabir, president of the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, said this year's results reflect the actual performance of students.

"Examiners were instructed to evaluate papers on merit. No extra or grace marks were awarded this

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PHOTO: TITU DAS

Relatives take a patient on a stretcher from Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital to a diagnostic centre on Band Road amid pouring rain in Barishal yesterday. With essential tests either unavailable or delayed for days due to capacity constraints, even critically ill patients are forced to seek diagnostics outside.

Draft MoU for hosting UN rights office gets final nod

UNB, Dhaka

The council of advisers yesterday gave its final approval to the draft memorandum of understanding allowing the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a mission in Bangladesh.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or the UN Human Rights is the leading UN entity on human rights.

The 33rd meeting of the advisory council, chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, was held at his office.

The council also approved a proposal for Bangladesh's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT).

Bangladesh became a State Party to the original Convention in 1998, said the Cabinet Division after the meeting.

The protocol, aimed at strengthening protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, was adopted in 2002.

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TRUMP TARIFFS

Businesses demand lobbyist for negotiations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of major business chambers and trade bodies yesterday expressed concern to the government about the 35 percent tariff levied on Bangladesh by the Trump administration.

They said Bangladesh's exports to the US, which was around \$8 billion last year, will be badly impacted by the new rate.

Nearly 200 small and medium enterprises may be closed down and more than one lakh workers may lose their jobs due to the new tariff, industry insiders said.

The new rate for export shipments to the US, Bangladesh's single largest export destination, will be effective from August 1.

The American clothing retailers and brands are already delaying work orders for the next season because of the uncertainty surrounding the tariff, since negotiations with the US are still ongoing.

After a meeting with four advisers at the Rail Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday, the business leaders claimed they requested the government to appoint lobbyist firms in the US for negotiating the tariff issue with the Trump administration at least two months ago.

"But the government did not pay heed to the suggestion," said Mahmud Hasan Khan, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

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THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH

JULY 11, 2024

Blockade turns confrontational

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

On July 11, 2024, the anti-quota movement entered a new phase of confrontation. Ignoring police warnings and ministers' calls to step back, thousands of protesters defied barricades and took to the streets as part of their "Bangla Blockade." For the first time since the movement began, law enforcement intervened, triggering clashes that left at least 20 students injured in Cumilla and Chattogram.

For 11 consecutive days, students from public universities and colleges, along with job seekers, had been demonstrating peacefully, occupying key intersections, highways, and rail lines across the country. Until this day, police had refrained from disrupting their gatherings. But as the blockade widened, the authorities signalled a tougher stance. The police announced they would take legal action if

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THE NEW BEST-IN-CLASS
PUREIT ULTIMA PRO IS HERE!

8 STAGES

9 LITRE STORAGE

HEAVY METAL REMOVAL

Analysed/Pureit/2025

Four die after inhaling septic tank gas

All died trying to save each other after phone fell into a toilet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Four people lost their lives after inhaling toxic gas while attempting to retrieve a mobile phone from a septic tank in the remote Harinchhara tea garden of Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila early yesterday.

The victims are Rana Nayek, 17, Shraban Nayek, 19, Krishna Rabidas, 20, and Nipen Fulmali, 27. Their families work in different tea gardens.

Another injured, Rabi Banerjee, was undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

According to locals and relatives, the mobile phone accidentally fell into a makeshift toilet around 1:30am. In an attempt to recover it, one of the victims entered the tank and immediately lost consciousness, reportedly due to the presence of toxic gas.

"The victims went down one after another to rescue each other, but none of them made it out," said Dulal Fulmali, a relative of victim Nipen, who was the father of two young daughters and his family's sole breadwinner.

Sabyasachi Pal Tamal of Moulvibazar 250-bed General Hospital said the four were brought dead. Another youth was later admitted with serious injuries, and he was referred to Sylhet for better treatment.

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sreemangal Police Station, told this correspondent, "An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the deaths."

ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR

Blockade turns confrontational

FROM PAGE 1

protesters continued to block roads and cause public suffering, citing a Supreme Court directive to maintain the status quo on the quota issue.

Around the same time, Chhatra League President Saddam Hossain addressed the media at Dhaka University, warning that the organisation was prepared to confront any attempt to use the movement for political gain. Meanwhile, police mobilised additional forces, riot cars, and water cannons, particularly around Shahbagh and other strategic points in Dhaka.

At Shahbagh, thousands of students from Dhaka University breached police barricades around 5:00pm. Law enforcers encircled the crowd near Birdem Hospital, preventing them from advancing further, which led to scuffles and angry chants of "bhua" (fake) directed at the police. The demonstrators held their ground at the intersection.

Another group – mostly students from Dhaka College and Eden Mohila College – marched towards Shahbagh but were stopped by police near New Market, where they staged a brief rally vowing to continue their protests. Jagannath University students also joined after breaking the lock on their main gate, marching through Shankhari Bazar and Tantibazar despite multiple police attempts to halt them.

In Cumilla, at least ten students were injured when police charged batons to disperse protesters near the Ansar Camp. Witnesses said the police struck first, and students retaliated by throwing brick chunks. The situation escalated when police fired tear gas, causing further injuries. Fazle Rabbi, director of Cumilla General Hospital, confirmed that six of the injured were treated and released, while the others remained under care.



FILE PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Students break through a police barricade in Shahbagh around 5:30pm on July 11, 2024, during a demonstration demanding reforms to the quota system in government jobs.

Clashes also broke out in Chattogram city, where at least five people were injured in two separate confrontations in the Tigerpass and Gate No-2 areas. Police charged batons on demonstrators attempting to defy barricades. Despite the violence, students held their ground, blocking roads until 7:30pm.

The government responded with mixed signals. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan warned that the students were crossing the line but expressed hope that they would return to their studies, describing them as "educated and intelligent." Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader echoed the call for restraint but cautioned that the government would not tolerate any attempt to use the movement for political anarchy.

The University Grants Commission issued letters to vice-chancellors across the country, urging them to bring students back to classrooms.

Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan also weighed in, stating that the courts were always open to hearing the protesters' demands and advising them to seek remedies through the judicial system rather than the executive.

As the day ended, it became clear that the rift between the streets and the state had deepened. The students held their ground, determined to continue until real legislative action on quota reform was secured. But for the first time since the July uprising began, they faced not only political opposition but also the force of the state's security machinery.

Ex-IGP Mamun offers to be a state witness

FROM PAGE 1

Jaiad Bin Amjad, lawyer for Mamun, told The Daily Star that he had submitted an application for his client to become an approver. "The court has granted it. So, from now on, he is considered an approver, not an accused. However, if the tribunal is not convinced by his statement later, it can still treat him as an accused. This is part of the legal process."

Judge Mohitul read the charges as instructed by tribunal chair Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder.

Each charge against Hasina begins with a context from her press conference of July 14, 2024. The charges state that as prime minister and political head of the Awami League led 14-party alliance, Hasina made inflammatory remarks likening protesters with "grandchildren of Razakars" or collaborators of the Pakistani forces during the 1971 Liberation War.

These comments incited law enforcement officials and armed party cadres, according to the charges. Hasina then issued the

order to use lethal force, the prosecution alleged, adding that in turn, the former home minister and ex-IGP executed the orders through subordinate commanders.

The judge read on, "As a result, coordinated armed attacks were carried out nationwide on innocent protesters demanding quota reforms. Drones were used to locate protest sites, followed by attacks with firearms and helicopters. At least 1,500 people were killed and 25,000 injured – many suffering permanent blindness and disabilities."

He also said the victims were denied medical treatment, and no post-mortem examinations were carried out. In the case of Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur who was shot dead, the post-mortem report was changed four times.

The judge also said that six people were burned – five already dead and one still alive at the time – in an attempt to destroy evidence.

The ICT-I member also said the tribunal believes there is enough evidence to presume the

accused knowingly and systematically committed offences under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973.

"Thereby, Sheikh Hasina, Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun are formally indicted," he announced.

Former police chief Mamun appeared sombre in the dock in a purple chequered half shirt and gray trousers. Security was tight, with extra police deployed around the tribunal premises.

THE CHARGES

Charge 1: This charge specifies that following Hasina's July 14 press briefing, former home minister Asaduzzaman, former IGP Mamun, and other high officials of the then government abetted, assisted, and were complicit in the severe and systematic attacks on innocent, unarmed students and masses.

Charge 2: This charge is related to Hasina ordering the use of drones and helicopters along with lethal weapons to subdue protesters. It mentions the

telephonic conversation between Hasina and former Dhaka South mayor Fazle Noor Taposh and former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof ASM Maksud Kamal where the former premier spoke about the order. The prosecution charged Asaduzzaman and Mamun with facilitating and executing this directive by issuing instructions to law enforcers.

The defendants have been charged with ordering, facilitating, being complicit in, and conspiring to commit these crimes against humanity, knowingly and systematically.

Charge 3: This charge is related to the killing of Rangpur student Abu Sayed.

As part of the widespread and systematic attacks on unarmed student protesters, on July 16, police shot Sayed several times without provocation. The doctor concerned was forced to alter his post-mortem report four times to conceal the actual cause of death. The defendants ordered, incited, abetted, facilitated, were complicit and conspired to commit these crimes against

humanity.

Charge 4: This count is related to the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters in Dhaka's Chankharpul on August 5 last year.

The prosecutors said the atrocities in Chankharpul were carried out on the defendants' orders, and with incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity.

Charge 5: The defendants are charged with the shooting of six student protesters, five of whom were killed and burned, while the sixth was reportedly set on fire while still alive, in Ashulia on August 5 last year.

As the judge read the word "burned", he paused and muttered, "Nauzubillah!"

The prosecution contends that the atrocity was carried out knowingly with the defendants' orders, incitement, abetment, facilitation, complicity, and conspiracy, constituting crimes against humanity, including other inhumane acts such as torture and murder.

humanity. The number of 67.51 percent, Cumilla 63.60 percent, Dinajpur 67.03 percent, Sylhet 68.57 percent, and Mymensingh 58.22 percent.

In terms of GPA-5 achievers, Dhaka topped the list with 37,068, followed by Rajshahi 22,327, Jashore 15,410, Dinajpur 15,062, Chattogram 11,843, Cumilla 9,902, Mymensingh 6,678,

the lowest since 2009, when it was 67 percent.

In the years between, the pass rate never fell below 80 percent, except in 2018, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics. That year, the pass rate was 79.40 percent.

The number of GPA-5 achievers is also the lowest in six years. This year, 70.67 percent of female students passed the SSC exams, compared to 65.11 percent of male students, a difference of 5.56 percentage points. Among the total GPA-5 achievers, 66,780 are girls and 58,238 are boys.

Board officials said that students who wish to challenge their results may apply for review from July 11 to July 17. Details are available on the education boards' websites.

This year's SSC and equivalent exams began on April 10 and ended on May 13, with practical exams held from May 15 to 22. Around 19.28 lakh students registered for the exams, over one lakh fewer than last year. Of them, 19.04 lakh appeared in exams.

Of those, 14,79,310 sat under the nine general education boards, 2,86,572 under the Madrasa Board, and 1,38,204 under the Technical Board.

BNP urges EC

FROM PAGE 12

He alleged that a certain quarter has tried to label the BNP as a party opposed to reforms, but it is the BNP that introduced all major reforms in Bangladesh.

"Reform is in our blood. We were born through reforms. So, it is unfair to say that BNP is against reforms. Nothing could be a greater distortion of the truth than claiming BNP is obstructing reforms. We strongly believe in liberal democracy."

Power should change through elections and only an elected government should lead the country and resolve its issues.

"Why are we asking this government for everything? It's just an interim government. Do those involved have better understanding of politics than us? No, they don't. But we have entrusted them with responsibility and we are accepting what's agreed upon through talks."

Speaking about the "July Declaration", Fakhru said the BNP earlier shared its opinion on it and finalised a formal response on Wednesday night after receiving a draft from the government.

"So, where is the problem?"

About the 35 percent tariff imposed by the US, Fakhru said the interim government should have engaged qualified individuals to hold talks

with the US earlier.

"We are in trouble. If a 35 percent tariff is imposed on the garment sector, it will collapse. That means the backbone of our economy will be broken. This is an extremely serious problem."

Fakhru said he does not know how much attention the government has paid to the issue.

"Perhaps time hasn't run out yet. There is still time to discuss these matters so that our industries can survive, our girls' employment isn't lost, and our economy isn't harmed."

About the killings and push-ins at the border, Fakhru said: "I urge journalists to take this matter seriously. This is not a minor issue. It's happening every day. Therefore, it's essential to bring this issue forward with greater importance..."

If the parliamentary election is not held, a "dark force" will once again come to power, said Nagorik Oikya's President Mahmudur Rahman Manna.

Therefore, every effort must be made to ensure that the election takes place.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar said political parties may have different opinions, but they should stay united in the interest of the nation and democracy.

He also urged the

political parties to use careful and respectful language while speaking or criticising their opponents so that people do not get the wrong message about the unity among anti-fascist forces.

At the event, a condolence motion was placed for "64 journalists who died during the July uprising and movement against the now ousted regime."

Fakhru handed over crests to the family of late BFUJ president Ruhul Amin Gazi and the families of six other journalists killed during the uprising.

At the venue, a photo exhibition was organised on violence against journalists, where over five dozen photos were displayed, highlighting attacks, torture and repression faced by journalists.

The organisations also displayed a banner titled "Journalists Who Were Persecuted During the Fascist Regime," featuring the names of 31 journalists.

DUIJ President Shahidul Islam presided over the event, which was moderated by General Secretary Khurshid Alam.

BNP Standing Committee member AZM Zahid, BFUJ Secretary General Quader Gani Chowdhury and Jatiya Press Club President Hasan Haliz spoke among others.

Manindra added that while every citizen has the right to political affiliation, it should never lead to violence or persecution.

"No one deserves to be silenced or targeted for their identity or beliefs. Such actions have no place in a civilised society."

The council's co-presidents Professor Nim Chandra Bhowmik and Nirmol Rozario, and presidium member Kajal Debnath, were also present at the event.

Economist Barkat held in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economist Prof Abul Barkat was arrested in the capital last night in a case filed with the Anti Corruption Commission.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch arrested him around 11:30pm at his home on Dhanmondi Road-3.

"As per Anti Corruption Commission's request, the DB team conducted a drive and arrested him," Mohammad Nasirul Islam, joint commissioner (South) of DMP DB told The Daily Star.

"We will hand him over to ACC tomorrow morning," he added.

Prof Abul Barkat is a former chairman of the state-owned Janata Bank PLC.

In February, the ACC filed a case alleging that during his tenure as chairman, Abul Barkat was involved in loan fraud involving AnonTex Group, a ready-made garments company, resulting in the embezzlement of Tk 297 crore from Janata Bank.

The case names 23 individuals as accused, including Abul Barkat, former Janata Bank director Jamal Uddin Ahmed, and former Bangladesh Bank governor Atiur Rahman.

Atiur was the BB governor from 2005 to 2015.

Barkat, former president of the Bangladesh Economic Association and a faculty member at Dhaka University, was appointed chairman of Janata Bank on September 9, 2009, for a three-year term.

He served two consecutive terms, completing five years in the position before stepping down in September 2014.

Earlier, the ACC investigated the same incident of money embezzlement and closed the case in 2022, citing a lack of evidence against the accused.



SSC pass rate plunges to a 16-year low

FROM PAGE 1

time," he said.

"We won't comment on past events," he said, referring to the results of previous years. "This time, there was no pressure from higher authorities, and the results genuinely reflect the students' performance."

Only 984 institutions achieved a 100 percent pass rate, down from 2,968 last year, while institutions with zero pass rate rose from 51 to 134.

The combined pass rate across all boards – general, madrasa, and technical – is 68.45 percent, down by 14.59 percentage points from last year. Across all boards, a total of 1,39,032 students achieved GPA-5, compared to 1,82,129 in 2023.

HUMANITIES STUDENTS LAG BEHIND

Across all general boards, the pass rate in the humanities group was just 53.87 percent, far below science's 85.68 percent and business studies' 66.32 percent.

In Barishal, the humanities pass rate was around 43 percent, compared to 83 percent in science.

A similar trend among humanities students' pass rate has been observed in other boards – 42.84 percent in Mymensingh, 46.56 percent in Dinajpur,

46.77 percent in Cumilla, and 49.54 percent in Dhaka.

BARISHAL ON BOTTOM, RAJSHAHI ON TOP

Poor performance in mathematics and English dragged down Barishal Board, which posted the lowest overall pass rate among the general boards and had just 3,114 GPA-5 achievers.

issued a clear directive: no leniency would be allowed in evaluating papers."

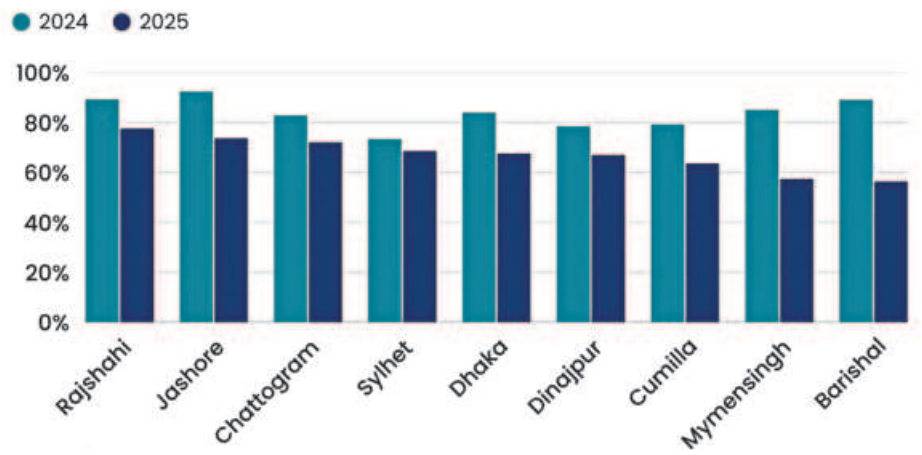
"Moreover, students performed poorly in mathematics and English, especially those from rural areas," he added.

In contrast, Rajshahi Board topped the list with a 77.63 percent pass rate. Here, the pass rate of

Dhaka 67.51 percent, Cumilla 63.60 percent, Dinajpur 67.03 percent, Sylhet 68.57 percent, and Mymensingh 58.22 percent.

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SSC PASS PERCENTAGE BY BOARD



Prof Md Yunus Ali Siddiqui, chairman of the Barishal Intermediate and Secondary Education Board, told The Daily Star, "This time, the examination was conducted in a completely cheating-free environment, and we strictly followed the rules at every stage. The government

humanities students was 66.20 percent, the highest among all boards. Rajshahi also recorded the highest pass rates in mathematics (86.52 percent) and English (93.10 percent).

The pass rates in other general education boards are: Jashore 73.69 percent, Chattogram 72.07 percent,

and Sylhet 3,614.

In the Dakhil exam under the Madrasa Board, 68,09 percent passed and 9,066 secured GPA-5. Among vocational students, 73.63 percent passed, with 4,948 getting GPA-5.

LOWEST SINCE 2009

An analysis of previous years' data shows that this



Work together for a strong, healthy nation

Says Yunus on World Population Day

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus yesterday called upon development partners, non-governmental organisations, media, and civil society to come forward and cooperate with the government in building a healthy and strong nation.

"Let's all take Bangladesh forward," he said in a message marking World Population Day.

Yunus said this year's theme of the day

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Students and parents cross the street through a broken divider in the capital's Kakrail area. Recent rain has left puddles at the spot, making the risky shortcut even more dangerous. Despite a foot-over bridge nearby, many still choose this path for quicker access. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

July injured to get free flats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works has taken up a project to provide free flats in Dhaka to those who were seriously injured during the July uprising.

A total of 1,560 flats will be constructed at an estimated cost of around Tk 1,400 crore, funded by the government, said Syed Md Nurul Basir, chairman of the National Housing Authority (NHA).

"Many people became disabled or lost their ability to work during the July movement. The government will provide them with flats," he said.

The flats will be built on government land in Mirpur Section 9, and the project will be implemented by the NHA. The authority has already prepared the designs.

Each flat will be 1,270 square feet and include two bedrooms, a drawing room, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, and three toilets, the NHA chairman told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier, the ministry had launched a separate project to provide free flats to the families of those martyred during the July uprising.

That project comprises 804 flats, with a total estimated cost of Tk 762 crore. Each flat will be 1,355 square feet and constructed on government land in Mirpur Section 14.

Chairman Basir said infrastructure development is currently the priority, and building construction is expected to take around four years.

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Starved and tortured for 42 days

2 Bangladeshis held hostage in Libya for ransom; PBI arrests 2 local collaborators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alamgir Hossain had nearly lost all hope. For 42 days, he and fellow Bangladeshi migrant Siraj Uddin were held hostage in a Libyan hideout -- shackled, beaten, and starved by human traffickers demanding ransom from their families in Bangladesh.

Each call home came with fresh torture, livestreamed over "imo", as the captors shouted -- "No money, no life."

The two men, hailing from Noakhali and working at a workshop in Tripoli's Jamazaiton area, were abducted on January 8 this year.

"The abductors later handed us over to another group, who accused us of running a manpower business and sending people to Italy," said Alamgir, who migrated to Libya as a welder in 2022.

"They demanded 4 lakh takas from each of us. When we said we couldn't pay, they tortured us and then handed us over to a Bangladeshi group."

Their families soon received ransom demands of Tk 22 lakh per person through video calls.

"There were nine Bangladeshis who tortured us," Alamgir said. "We were barely given food or water. They beat us every day for money."

During the calls, the captors whipped their feet with electric cables, smashed their knees so they couldn't stand, even stripped and assaulted them in the freezing Libyan winter, Alamgir added.

At one point, the abductors declared the victims dead and cut off communication, putting more pressure on the families. Siraj's sister-in-law, Parvin Akhter, managed to send Tk 1.5 lakh on January 13, but the torture continued.

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Migrants trapped in medical scam

Syndicate exploits Gulf-bound workers, issues fake fitness papers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Sohel Howlader (pseudonym) was preparing to travel to Saudi Arabia on a salesman visa. In February, he contacted a recruiting agency in Dhaka's Paltan area to begin the mandatory medical certification process for Gulf-bound workers.

The agency offered him two options: a Tk 10,000 "standard" medical package that could result in an "unfit" certificate if any health issues were found -- rendering his passport unusable until the expiry of the certificate. The other option would be a Tk 20,000 package that guaranteed a "fit" certificate regardless of his condition.

"I took the Tk 10,000 package because I believed I was healthy," Soheli told The Daily Star recently. He passed the test at a centre near 100-foot Road in Dhaka and received his certificate. Still, his travel remains stalled due to procedural delays.

Meanwhile, others were not as fortunate.

Ratan Mia from Cox's Bazar paid Tk 25,000 to an agent for a "fit" certificate from a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) approved medical centre. After reaching Saudi Arabia, a follow-up check found him unfit, and he was deported.

"Now I'm drowning in debt, chased by loan sharks," he said.

These stories expose a powerful syndicate turning the mandatory health check into a tool for exploitation. Previously known

as GAMCA, the GCC approved centres in Bangladesh are allegedly controlled by a few influential owners who have monopolised the process and profit massively by manipulating referrals and issuing fake certificates.

Former GAMCA president Jahangir Alam Biswas admitted that a racket is extorting workers. "We're trying to resolve the issue through discussions. The ministry is also looking into it, and we've

Previously known as GAMCA, the GCC-approved centres in Bangladesh are allegedly controlled by a few influential owners who have monopolised the process and profit massively by manipulating referrals and issuing fake certificates.

held several meetings," he told The Daily Star.

Although there are over 200 approved centres, nearly 90 percent of referrals go to just about 20 centres, according to industry insiders.

To undergo the check-up for jobs in the Middle East, agencies must buy a \$10 referral token from the Wafid system run by the Gulf Health Council. The total cost should not exceed Tk 8,500-9,000 per worker.

But syndicate-linked centres pre-book hundreds of slots in advance, leaving most other centres with no referrals, while a few centres process up to 500 workers a day.

Once tests are done, reports are uploaded online.

In many cases, tests are conducted in Dhaka, but the reports are submitted under the names of district-based centres to avoid scrutiny, a recruiting agency owner said, requesting anonymity.

The syndicate reportedly charges Tk 25,000-30,000 for a guaranteed "fit" certificate -- three times the official fee. As most slots are booked by them, they get to exploit the situation easily.

A highly placed source told The Daily Star that key figures behind the racket include Mohammad Bashir, owner of over a dozen centres and linked to Rabbi International, along with Noman Chowdhury and Enam Chowdhury.

Contacted, Bashir said, "I've never heard of anyone misusing these certificates or any investigation in this regard."

The GCC Approved Medical Centres Association has had no executive committee in Bangladesh for over a decade. Former president Jahangir Alam said Noman Chowdhury currently plays a leading role.

Noman and Enam did not respond to repeated calls.

Industry insiders estimate that by monopolising the process and

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Every country faces risks from militant attacks

Says US Chargé d'Affaires

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many incidents of political persecution and repression during the previous Awami League government's tenure were labelled as "militant activities" to divert attention, said US Chargé d'Affaires Megan Bouldin yesterday.

She made the remarks during a courtesy call on Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury at his office in the Secretariat, according to a press release issued by the home ministry.

The two also discussed matters of mutual interest, such as the country's law and order situation, security cooperation, counterterrorism, prosecution of related cases, and the prevention of online sexual harassment of young women, among other issues.

The adviser said the US is a close ally of

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

China backs govt's reform initiatives

Its foreign minister pledges cooperation in meet with foreign adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has expressed full support for Bangladesh's interim government's reform initiatives and pledged cooperation in key areas including trade, investment, medical tourism, and water management.

He made the commitments during a meeting with Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain yesterday on the sidelines of the 32nd Asean Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur, according to a foreign ministry statement.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Govt takes steps for media reform, adopts 12 decisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has begun implementing several key recommendations made by the Media Reform Commission, with the information ministry initially adopting 12 major decisions.

The ministry disclosed the move yesterday in a press statement, noting that the 11-member Media Reform Commission, led by senior journalist Kamal Ahmed, submitted its report to the government on March 22 this year.

According to the statement, an ordinance ensuring the protection of journalists' rights will be enacted soon following consultations with stakeholders.

A task force will be formed to reform the newspaper circulation auditing system.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

Freeze, confiscate S Alam's assets in Singapore

Court orders ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to take steps for freezing and confiscating foreign assets owned by S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam, his wife Farzana Parveen, their children, and one son-in-law in Singapore.

The couple's sons are Ashrafur Alam, Asadul Alam Mahir, and Ahsanul Alam; their daughter is Maimuna Khanam, and her husband is Ahmed Belal.

The foreign assets include 43 bank accounts, shares of two hotels, eight hotels, development companies, and gold ornaments.

Of the assets, the couple owns shares of two hotels, whose market value stands at 68 million Singaporean dollars. Their sons, daughter, and son-in-law own development companies and other assets. Their daughter owns gold ornaments worth about 53,400 Singaporean dollars. However, the ACC did not mention how much had been invested or deposited in these accounts and companies.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of the Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Tahasin Monabil Haq, who leads the inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

The judge also ordered the ACC to send a copy of the order to the concerned authorities in Singapore for the next course of action.

On Wednesday, the same court ordered the ACC to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



RMG workers being intercepted by police yesterday as they attempt to march to the state guest house Jamuna to press their demands. Earlier in the day, workers from eight factories of the TNZ Group in Gazipur held a sit-in in front of the Sramik Bhaban at Bijoy Nagar, demanding arrears and other benefits.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Padma erosion threatens ferry ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Padma river has taken a furious turn, devouring the riverbank at Najirganj in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna, putting the Najirganj ferry ghat under serious threat of erosion.

Officials of the Water Development Board (WDB), however, claimed there is sufficient protection work around the ferry ghat.

During a recent visit to the area, a vast portion of riverbank land around the pontoon of the Najirganj ferry ghat was found already devoured by the river.

With rising water pressure, the river has been eroding the northern part of the ferry ghat over the past few days.

"Riverbank erosion is happening rapidly, and residents living nearby face an increasing threat. The river is coming closer to homesteads," said Md Moshir Rahman, chairman of Najirganj Union Parishad.

If the erosion continues, dozens of homesteads and the ferry ghat itself may be swallowed by the Padma within days, he added.



Md Alamgir Hossain, a BIWTC official and employee of Najirganj ferry ghat, said, "A portion of the riverbank around the ferry ghat has already been devoured, so we are operating the ferries with caution."

Contacted, Sujanagar UNO Meer Rasheduzzaman Rashed said he visited Najirganj to observe the situation. "We have already informed the Water Development Board to take necessary action," he said.

Md Jahedul Islam, executive engineer of the Bera WDB office, said a 300-metre area around the ferry ghat had earlier been protected with CC blocks.

When asked about the sudden erosion, he said, "Due to water pressure, the topsoil has eroded, but there is nothing to worry about yet."

"We are monitoring the situation. The erosion is ongoing but no establishments have been damaged so far. If the situation worsens, we will initiate protection work."



Farmers plant Aman seedlings in a field in Narail yesterday. Taking advantage of the seasonal rains, they have started transplanting earlier than usual. According to the farmers, early planting increases the chances of a better yield. The photo was taken in the Tularampur area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

NALITABARI IN SHERPUR

Thousands suffer for lack of a bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A bridge that collapsed three years ago in Sherpur's Nalitabari upazila has yet to be repaired, leaving thousands of residents in misery.

Locals said the steel bridge on the Polashikura-Batkuchi Tilapara road over the Chellakhali river was destroyed by flash floods in 2023.

Thousands of people from at least 10 villages, including Batkuchi, Meshkura, Somschura, Somoschura, Baromari, Polashikura, Andharupara, Dhalukuna, Sekerchura, and Bonarpura, depend on the bridge throughout the year.

Residents frequently need to visit Mission Hospital, Nalitabari Upazila Health Complex, Union Parishad Health

Centre, and Baromari Christian Mission. Tourists heading to Madhutula Ecopark also travel along this road.

Although the upazila headquarters is only a few kilometres from the bridge



site, the absence of a concrete bridge has forced people to take detours of eight to 10 kilometres, causing immense hardship and additional financial and time costs.

During the monsoon, the situation worsens. "As this is a frontier area, it gets hit by flash floods almost every year. A properly planned and well-designed bridge must be constructed to ease the long-standing suffering of the people," said Md Moznu Miah, a school teacher.

Farmers are particularly hard hit.

"We can't get fair prices for our produce because we cannot transport it easily to local bazaars. Middlemen take the lion's share, and many farmers are forced to sell at lower prices," said Mohammad Waliullah, a farmer from Batkuchi village.

Md Jamal Uddin, chairman of Puragoan Union Parishad, said locals have long demanded a concrete bridge, but the appeal has gone unheard.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3

Migrants trapped in medical

FROM PAGE 3

issuing fraudulent reports, the syndicate earns hundreds of crores annually.

Amid mounting allegations, members of the GCC approved medical centres voiced their frustration during a programme in Dhaka on June 26.

They demanded the cancellation of licences of syndicate-linked centres and fair referral

distribution.

"About 95 percent of approved centres are getting no work. The syndicate is manipulating the system and earning crores," said one member.

"This is not just corruption -- it's endangering lives," added another. "Unfit workers with fake certificates are being deported, damaging Bangladesh's reputation as a labour-sending country."

AZM Nurul Haque, joint

secretary (monitoring and enforcement wing) of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, said, "We've heard of irregularities, including extra charges for health certificates, but haven't received formal complaints."

"We've contacted the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Ministry of Health Affairs for investigation. We're also conducting our own inquiry," he added.

Starved and tortured

FROM PAGE 3

On January 29, Alamgir's elder brother Abdul Malek filed a case with Adabor Police Station under the Human Trafficking Prevention and Suppression Act. The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) then stepped in.

"Realising the gravity of the case, we launched a proactive investigation," said Enayet Hossain Mannan, additional DIG of PBI, at a press briefing in Dhaka yesterday.

Using digital forensics and bank transaction data, PBI arrested Russel Haque, 25, in Rajshahi on January 30.

Russel was found to be in regular contact with his uncle Kamal Hossain, a Libyan expatriate involved in collecting ransom. A mobile phone used in these communications was seized.

On February 16, PBI arrested Mintu Farazi, 39, in Bagerhat's Moralganj. Farazi had received Tk 4 lakh in two installments from the victims' families. He admitted that the money came from his relative Nazrul Islam, also

based in Libya.

PBI recovered a mobile phone used for the transaction and froze Farazi's bank account before any funds could be withdrawn.

In the early hours of February 18 (Bangladesh time), the captors dumped Alamgir and Siraj outside a hospital in Libya's Zilzila area.

"While in captivity, we saw four other Bangladeshi victims," Alamgir said. "On the day we were abandoned, three more Bangladeshis were brought in."

The two were eventually placed under the care of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with help from BRAC Migration, said the PBI official.

On July 9, PBI took Alamgir into custody upon his arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Efforts are ongoing to bring back Siraj, said the PBI official.

PBI recovered two mobile phones, screenshots of ransom-related bank slips sent to Libya, settlement documents of two bank accounts, audio and video recordings of torture and rescue, photos and videos of the victims during their stay with IOM, documents from BRAC Migration, and a BFU-issued letter freeing the suspect's account.

Freeze

FROM PAGE 3

freeze 53 bank accounts of S Alam, his family members, and his beneficiaries over corruption allegations.

On June 24, the same court ordered the freezing and confiscation of foreign assets owned by S Alam and his wife Farzana Parveen in Cyprus, the British Virgin Islands, and the Jersey Islands.

On June 17, the same court ordered the anti-graft body to confiscate 200.26 acres of immovable property owned by S Alam, his family members, and their beneficiaries. The market value of the properties is Tk 180.61 crore.

Couple die in 'gas explosion'

Daughter hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her husband died, and their three-year-old daughter suffered burns in a "gas explosion" at their residence in Jatrabari early yesterday.

Eti Akter, 30, with 45 percent burns, and Ripon, 40, with 70 percent, breathed their last at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery hours after the blast occurred around 1:45am on the ground floor of a six-storey building, said hospital sources.

Dr Shawon Bin Rahman, resident surgeon, said their daughter, Rafia, 3, who sustained 90 percent burns, is currently undergoing treatment.

Taslina Moni, a neighbour who took the victims to the hospital, said she and others were startled by a loud explosion in the middle of the night.

"The doors and windows of the house were blown off," she said.

Quoting victims and locals, Kazi Ramzanul Haque, inspector (investigation) of Jatrabari Police Station, said residents had been smelling gas -- possibly from a septic tank or a gas line -- for several days.

"We suspect leaked gas had accumulated inside the house and ignited when someone tried to light a mosquito coil," he said.

3 fishers missing after trawler capsizes in Bay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three fishermen have gone missing, and nine others were rescued after a trawler capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Patharghata upazila in Barguna.

The incident, occurred on Tuesday night, came to light yesterday when the rescued fishers the trawler FB Saiful returned to their respective areas, said Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of the Barguna District Fishing Trawler Owners' Association.

The missing fishermen -- Kabir Hiali, 45, Sohag, 30, and Gopal Chandra, 40 -- are from Patharghata, he said.

According to Mostafa, three trawlers -- including FB Saiful -- were fishing in close proximity when FB Saiful, carrying 12 crew members, capsized. Nearby trawlers managed to rescue nine of them, he added.

Patharghata Police Station OC Mehedi Hasan said, "After being informed of the incident by the trawler owners' association, we alerted the naval police in both Patuakhali and Barguna."

2 more die of dengue, 337 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 337 were hospitalised in the 24 hours until yesterday morning.

Among the deaths, one was reported in Chattogram division while another in Dhaka.

With these cases, the total number of deaths rose to 54 while total number of infections rose to 13,931, according to the DGHS. Of the total cases, 12,591 dengue patients have been released, of which 9,950 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 1,286 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, and 925 of which are from outside Dhaka.

Request for Quotation: Call Centre System Upgradation Project

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals as well as business entities with a network of 191 Branches, 80 Sub-branches, 330 ATMs, 446 SME Unit Offices and 1,123 Agent Banking Outlets across the country. Currently, the bank is seeking a vendor for its Call Centre System Upgradation Project.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Technical Offer Submission is issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ along with details of the bidding process can be found on the bank's website <https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit the Technical offer as per the mentioned bidding process.

BRAC BANK
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Rajshahi City Corporation

Engineering Department
Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi
rajshahi.portal.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.12.0000.006.99.076.25.687

Date: 09.07.2025

e-Tender Notice (IFT: 01/2025-26)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender document last selling time and date
1.	1130964	Construction of Central Park Mosque.	12:30pm on 31-Jul-2025

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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www.ti-bangladesh.org/cartoon-competition

Deadline
30 September 2025



রাবেয়া খাতুন কথাসাহিত্য পুরস্কার ২০২৫

উপন্যাস ও গল্পগ্রন্থ জমা দেওয়ার আহ্বান

বাংলা একাডেমি পরিচালিত 'রাবেয়া খাতুন কথাসাহিত্য পুরস্কার' ২০২৫ প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে ৪৯ (উনপঞ্চাশ) বছর বয়স পর্যন্ত (জন্ম : ১৯৭৬ সালে বা তৎপরবর্তীকালে) কথাসাহিত্যিকদের ২০২৪ সালে প্রকাশিত মানসম্পন্ন উপন্যাস বা গল্পগ্রন্থ (একটি গ্রন্থের সাত কপি) আগামী ২০শে আগস্ট ২০২৫-এর মধ্যে বাংলা একাডেমির সংস্কৃতি উপবিভাগে জমা দেওয়ার আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে।

উপন্যাস বা গল্পগ্রন্থ জমা দেওয়ার সময় কথাসাহিত্যিককে বয়স প্রমাণের জন্য জন্মনিবন্ধন সনদ/জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র/পাসপোর্টের সত্যায়িত কপি ও মোবাইল নম্বর জমা দিতে হবে। শুধু বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক এ পুরস্কারের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন। প্রয়াত ব্যক্তির গ্রন্থ পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবে না।

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সংস্কৃতি উপবিভাগ
বাংলা একাডেমি

মোবাইল নম্বর : ০১৭১৭৮৭৩৩৪৪

GD-1560

Indo-Pacific a ‘focal point of US foreign policy’

Rubio tells Asean ministers

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met counterparts in Southeast Asia yesterday during his first visit to the region since taking office, reassuring them it is a priority for Washington, despite President Donald Trump’s tariffs.

Washington’s top diplomat joined foreign ministers of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Kuala Lumpur at a meeting that includes Australia, China, the European Union, Japan, Russia, South Korea



and Russia, and others.

The visit is part of an effort to renew US focus on the Indo-Pacific and look beyond conflicts in the Middle East and Europe.

“It is our view, our strong view, and the reality that this century and the next, the story of the next 50 years, will largely be written here in this region, in this part of the world,” Rubio told the gathering of Asean ministers.

“When I hear ... that perhaps the United States or the world might be distracted by events in other parts of the planet, I would say distraction is impossible,” added Rubio, who doubles as national security adviser.



Displaced Palestinians make their way toward the Mawasi area as they flee amid an Israeli ground offensive in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

52 killed in Israeli strikes

Says Gaza civil defence agency as ‘difficult’ truce talks continue

AGENCIES

Gaza’s civil defence agency yesterday said 52 people, including eight children, were killed in Israeli bombardments on the Palestinian territory.

Nearly half of those deaths were recorded in the central city of Deir el-Balah, where at least 17 people were killed, it said.

The series of strikes came just hours after Hamas, which runs Gaza, announced it was willing to release 10 Israeli hostages as part of ceasefire talks in Qatar. The Palestinian group also said it opposes any ceasefire deal that includes a large Israeli military presence in Gaza.

US President Donald Trump extended timeframe for the truce, saying there is a “very good chance” of a deal in Gaza this week or next, but Hamas said talks in Qatar have been “difficult” because of Israel’s stubbornness, reports Al Jazeera online.

Gaza’s civil defence agency official

- Hamas agrees to release 10 hostages as part of talks
- Trump says ceasefire deal close, this week or next
- Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian man in West Bank

Mohammed al-Mughair said the latest wave of Israeli bombings hit central and southern Gaza. Eight children and two women were among the dead, he said, adding Israeli aircraft targeted “a gathering of citizens in front of a medical point”.

Two people were killed in separate strikes on the Nuseirat camp while four lost their lives at the Bureij camp, both in central Gaza,

Mughair said.

Five people living in tents in the Al-Mawasi area of Khan Yunis in the south, he added. Israel’s strikes have killed at least 57,680 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to the Hamas run territory’s health ministry.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinian authorities said Israeli troops killed a 55-year-old man – an incident the Israeli army said involved a stabbing attack.

The Ramallah-based health ministry said the body in charge of coordination with Israel informed it that soldiers “shot and killed” the man in Rummanah, near Jenin, in the morning.

Meanwhile, the United States said on Wednesday it was imposing sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the United Nations’ special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, who has been very critical of US ally Israel’s offensive in Gaza.



Migrants sit on an inflatable dinghy as it sails along the coastline near Gravelines, France, yesterday. Britain’s coastguard said it had coordinated a response to multiple incidents involving small boat crossings in the English Channel earlier that morning.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Ex-FBI, CIA directors may have to ‘pay a price’

Says Trump amid reports of criminal probe

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump on Wednesday accused former FBI director James Comey and ex-CIA chief John Brennan, two prominent critics under criminal investigation, of being “crooked” and said they may have to “pay a price.”

Asked on Wednesday about the FBI’s opening of a probe into Comey and Brennan, Trump said he knows “nothing about it other than what I read today.”

“But I will tell you I think they’re very dishonest people,” the president told reporters at the White House. “I think they’re crooked as hell and maybe they have to pay a price for that.”

Fox News Digital first reported the probe into Comey and Brennan, saying it involved “potential wrongdoing” related to the investigation into claims of Russian interference in the 2016 election won by Trump, and alleged false statements made to Congress.

CIA director John Ratcliffe, a Trump appointee, had referred “evidence of wrongdoing by Brennan” to FBI director Kash Patel, another Trump appointee, for potential prosecution,



Fox News Digital said, citing Justice Department sources.

A Justice Department spokeswoman said the agency does “not comment on ongoing investigations.”

Comey and Brennan were named to their respective positions as head of the FBI and CIA by Democratic president Barack Obama, and they have a contentious history with Trump dating back to his first term in the White House.

Trump fired Comey in 2017 as the FBI chief was leading a probe into whether any members of the Trump campaign had colluded with Moscow to sway the 2016 presidential vote between Trump and Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

That investigation, which Trump has denounced for years as the “Russia hoax,” was taken over by special counsel Robert Mueller, who found there had been interference by Russia in the 2016 election in favor of Trump.

But Mueller said the probe “did not establish that members of the Trump Campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities.”

Iran threatens within UK ‘significantly increased’

Says intel watchdog

AFP, London

The threat posed by Iran in the UK has “significantly increased”, with Iranian spies behind more than a dozen attempts to kill or kidnap British-based individuals since 2022, parliament’s intelligence watchdog warned yesterday.

The UK government’s response has been too focused on “crisis management” while concerns over Iran’s nuclear programme have overly dominated, the Intelligence and Security



Committee of Parliament also concluded.

Its report comes amid growing alarm in Britain at alleged Iranian targeting of dissidents, media organisations and journalists in the UK, which has included accusations of physical attacks.

Iran in March became the first country to be placed on an enhanced tier of the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS), which aims to boost Britain’s national security against covert foreign influences.

“Iran poses a wide-ranging, persistent and unpredictable threat to the UK, UK nationals, and UK interests,” Kevan Jones, chairman of the watchdog committee, said in the report’s conclusions.

“Iran has a high appetite for risk when conducting offensive activity and its intelligence services are ferociously well-resourced with significant areas of asymmetric strength.”



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তারিখঃ- ২৬ আষাঢ় ১৪৩২
১০ জুলাই ২০২৫

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী কর্তৃক পরিচালিত ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস (ডিইডরিউ) লিঃ, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ এর চলমান বিভিন্ন প্রজেক্টের অধীনে প্র্যানিং এন্ড ডিজাইন বিভাগের জন্য নিম্নে বর্ণিত পদসমূহে চুক্তিভিত্তিক জনবল নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	বয়স (২৪/০৭/২০২৫ পর্যন্ত)	নিয়োগ এর ধরণ	বেতন
১।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০২ (দুই) টি	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ১। বিএসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/মেকানিক্যাল। ২। সিজিপিএ ন্যূনতম ৩.০০। অভিজ্ঞতা ১। যে কোন স্বীকৃত শিপইয়ার্ড/ডকইয়ার্ড/ডিজাইন হাউজে জাহাজ নির্মাণ/মেরামত, ডিজাইন সংক্রান্ত কাজে ন্যূনতম ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। শিপবিডিং সংক্রান্ত সফটওয়্যার AutoCAD, Maxsurf, Rhino, Ship Constructor এ পারদর্শী।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩৫ বছর	চুক্তি ভিত্তিক	ডিইডরিউ লিঃ এর নিজস্ব চুক্তিভিত্তিক বেতন কাঠামো অনুযায়ী
২।	উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী	০২ (দুই) টি	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ১। ডিপ্লোমা ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার/শিপবিডিং/মেকানিক্যাল। অভিজ্ঞতা ১। যে কোন স্বীকৃত শিপইয়ার্ড/ডকইয়ার্ড/ডিজাইন হাউজে জাহাজ নির্মাণ/ মেরামত, ডিজাইন সংক্রান্ত কাজে ন্যূনতম ০২ (দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন। ২। শিপ ডিজাইন সংক্রান্ত সফটওয়্যার AutoCAD, Maxsurf, Rhino, Ship Constructor এ পারদর্শী ও বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন।	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর		

২। মূল বেতনের সাথে অন্যান্য ভাতাদি ও বোনাস ডিইডরিউ লিঃ এর নিজস্ব বেতন কাঠামো, নিয়োগ নীতিমালা ও প্রচলিত নিয়মানুযায়ী (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) প্রদান করা হবে।
৩। ডিইডরিউ লিঃ এর মেডিক্যাল সেকশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত মেডিক্যাল ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট সন্তোষজনক ও পুলিশ তদন্ত প্রতিবেদন সন্তোষজনক প্রতিপাদিত হলে নিয়োগ প্রদান করা হবে।
৪। আগ্রহী প্রার্থীকে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত, সদ্য তোলা ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/ পৌরসভা/ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মেয়র/ কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব/ জাতীয়তা সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, জন্ম নিবন্ধন (অনলাইন ভেরিফাইড কপি যদি থাকে), শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদ/ প্রত্যয়নপত্র এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত সকল সনদপত্রসমূহের সত্যায়িত কপি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্তকরতঃ উক্ত আবেদনপত্র ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক বরাবর “ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ, বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী, সোনাকান্দা, বন্দর- ১৪১০, বন্দর, নারায়ণগঞ্জ” এর ঠিকানায় আপামী ২৪ জুলাই ২০২৫ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে প্রেরণ করতে হবে। প্রেরিত আবেদনপত্রের খামের উপর অবশ্যই পদের নাম ও মোবাইল নাম্বার উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
৫। প্রার্থীকে বাছাই কমিটি কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।
৬। লিখিত/মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
৭। ডিইডরিউ লিঃ এর চাহিদার প্রেক্ষিতে পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/ বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে।
৮। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
৯। বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগীয় প্রধানের অনুমতিপত্র অবশ্যই আবেদনের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১০। নিরাপত্তার স্বার্থে নিয়োগ সংশ্লিষ্ট পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে স্বাস্থ্যবিধি ও সচেতনতা অবলম্বন করতে হবে।
১১। নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
১২। ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস লিঃ কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন সময় নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল এবং সংশোধন করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

GD-1554

পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

We must protect our migrant workers

OKUP findings deserve critical scrutiny

The scale of the exploitation our migrant workers have faced over the years is truly shocking. A recent study by the Ovivabashi Karmi Unnayan Program (OKUP), based on 114 case studies of workers who sought legal help between January 2023 and October 2024, sheds light on just how systemic and devastating this exploitation has been. While the sample size may be modest, the patterns it reveals are consistent with what has long been reported anecdotally and through media investigations, pointing to a deeply entrenched and institutional neglect of responsibility in protecting our migrant workers.

As per the OKUP study, 36 percent of workers were forced to return home within just three months of migrating, crushing their hopes of a better future and even leaving many in deeper debt. Such abrupt, premature returns are only one side of a much larger problem, however. It includes contract substitution, lack of work permits, extortionate migration costs, etc. For example, 75 percent of workers left Bangladesh without receiving any prior employment contract while, shockingly, not a single female migrant received one before departure. Even among the 25 percent who did receive contracts, most got them just hours before their flight. Upon arrival, 47 percent of all migrants were denied work permits, and among those who received permits, only 24 percent were actually given the jobs they had been promised.

These findings point to a systematic betrayal of workers at every stage of the migration process, both at home and abroad. One revelation that almost all can relate to is that every male worker surveyed was charged migration fees well beyond the legal limits—often double for those heading to Saudi Arabia and six times higher for Malaysia. This is significant because these two countries are key destinations for our workers. Malaysia, in particular, has been in the news of late for exploitation-related cases. For instance, in May, 33 Bangladeshi workers filed a case in a Malaysian court against a recruitment firm and several government officials for alleged fraud. They said they were victims of human trafficking and job scams. In the first four months of 2025, over 3,500 Bangladeshis were also reportedly denied entry and sent back from Kuala Lumpur, many victims of such job scams. Also in May, another company revoked work permits of Bangladeshi workers after they aired concerns about its poor working conditions.

The OKUP study also raises serious questions about the effectiveness of the arbitration system for affected workers. While questioning the role of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) as being responsible for both issuing recruitment licences and settling disputes—an inherent conflict of interest—it reveals that there is currently no fair mechanism to ensure justice and no clearly defined standards for compensation or remedies. All these issues are interconnected and need to be resolved simultaneously to ensure the whole migration process is above board. OKUP's recommendations in this regard deserve serious consideration.

It is high time the interim government took comprehensive measures together with the authorities of destination countries to clean up this long-neglected process. Our migrant workers deserve dignity, protection, and justice. We must not let them be exploited any longer.

We need long-term climate solutions

Flood relief and rescue operations are not enough

Flash floods, waterlogging, and landslide risks have once again disrupted many lives and livelihoods as heavy rain lashed a number of districts across the country. In Feni, breaches in embankments along the Muhuri, Selonia, and Kohua rivers have reportedly triggered flash floods, marooning thousands and submerging at least 30 villages. Meanwhile, urban areas in Patuakhali, Cox's Bazar, Chattogram, Barishal, Khulna, Noakhali, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Rangamati are suffering from severe waterlogging, while crops and vegetable fields in rural areas have been damaged. Landslide warnings have also been issued in the broader region of Chattogram.

While we cannot stop nature from taking its own course, effective preparations could have significantly reduced the extent of the damage. This should have been prioritised especially after last year's devastating floods in the southeast. At the time, political instability and disrupted local governance hampered relief efforts. Now, with a more stable administration in place, timely and efficient flood response is expected. Yet, in places like Feni, locals are dissatisfied with the preventive actions taken so far, particularly the lack of sturdy embankments and the maintenance of existing ones. Though some repairs were carried out since last year, people rightly expect permanent, not piecemeal, solutions. In Noakhali municipality, no substantial initiative to tackle waterlogging has been taken. The local administration cites lack of funds as the reason for not repairing its drainage system since last year's disaster, which is troubling given the recurrent nature of these events.

Though the situation may ease if rainfall subsides, local authorities must remain ready to provide immediate support to affected communities. More importantly, long-term measures are essential to protect people from recurring climate-driven disasters. We are told that at an Advisory Council meeting held on Thursday, discussions were held on building climate-resilient infrastructure and mobilising funds for sustainable solutions. We urge the government to expedite the implementation of these projects. At the same time, we must continue to advocate for a fair share of international climate finance to ease our burdens. That said, the government must also ensure transparency and regular public updates on the use of the domestic flood relief fund launched last year.

Additionally, environmental destruction—such as rampant hill cutting, unchecked sand extraction from rivers, and encroachment on canals—must be stopped to reduce the impact of natural calamities. Climate change is already amplifying the frequency and intensity of these events. Without long-term planning, robust infrastructure, and strong environmental protection, we will continue to suffer the same fate every monsoon.



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MANZUR-AL-MATIN

July has returned! The depth of gratitude I feel for having survived the previous monsoon is difficult, if not impossible, to express in words. I, along with my wife Sara and so many of our friends who found ourselves united in protest in July 2024, could have easily lost our lives during those fateful days. But we were lucky to have witnessed the fall of the autocrat, the victory of the downtrodden.

Not everyone was that lucky. The men, women, boys and girls whose bodies were riddled with bullets, who were hacked to their deaths, have left a vacuum that can never be filled. The emptiness left behind by Farhan, Snigdho or Saikat is unbearable for their families and will forever remain so.

These brave souls sacrificed everything believing that lasting change is possible—a belief shared by everyone who answered the call of their conscience during the July uprising. I guess challenging times bring out the best in us. Faced with a foe like Sheikh Hasina, solidarity came naturally. But when we managed to put that behind us, things became much more complicated.

Some of the students whose participation and leadership in the July movement made this extraordinary feat possible have now formed their own political party—

Sheikh Hasina failed to realise that the freedom, dignity and aspiration of the people can never be sold. This failure led her, along with the rank and file of the Awami League, to a disgraceful flight on August 5, 2024. Let this be a lesson for those who are treading the same path.

the National Citizen Party (NCP). Although rifts between its leadership at times become apparent, the latest programme of the party has received a lot of attention. Starting on July 1 this year, the NCP leadership has started a tour of the country,



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NAZIBA BASHER

There are stories that make you sick to your stomach, and then there are stories that remind you how little has actually changed in the country regarding women's safety, no matter who holds the reins of power.

The 2024 Subarnachar case is both. Back in February last year, a woman and her 12-year-old daughter were gang-raped in their own home in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila. Yes, a child—but I suppose by now, it comes as no surprise.

But instead of seeing the accused behind bars, we are now seeing the survivors being forced to leave their home amid death threats. They have been forced to sell everything and run—not because they are guilty, but because they dared to demand justice.

The prime accused is Abul Khair Munshi, a known local Awami League leader, who was arrested after the incident. However, he was released on bail in November and is now roaming free. Even though his party has been ousted, he roams confident enough to threaten his victims, confident enough to walk up to a survivor's face on court premises and threaten to kill them if they don't withdraw



Thousands of people celebrate the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the streets of Dhaka on August 5, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

reaching out to the very people whose spontaneous participation in the protests last year created history. In my view, leaving the centre and reaching out to the periphery was a long-owed debt. Without lending an ear to the marginalised, the NCP can never find out what the true nature of their politics should be. The fact that, despite being late, they have taken the initiative gives me hope.

There are factions of the students who are far less organised but crave to have their voices heard. These are the students of universities, both public and private, and the students of schools and colleges. As their dreams fade, they still hold on to the hope that someday they will be given the opportunity to be heard. This is not only the responsibility of the government or the National Consensus

future of our country need to pause for a while and take time to listen carefully to what these voices have to say.

The women who left their homes and workplaces during the monsoon revolution were key to its success. Almost all the women who were at the forefront, braving all odds during the uprising, have faced bullying both online and offline in the aftermath. It is unfortunate that these people often feel left out nowadays. Any reform without their participation is bound to be unsustainable.

Finally, there are people who have placed personal gain over their responsibility to the nation. While we dream about finding a new settlement, with the weight of the sacrifices made by the martyrs upon our shoulders, some of us think it profitable to sell out the revolution itself for meagre personal gains.

learn a lot from Sri Lanka, a country which has gone through almost a similar set of events. Lessons must be learnt from the way the liberal and democratic forces there have remained united and secured an impactful political position after the uprising—how they have put their female leadership at the forefront, instead of marginalising them.

Sheikh Hasina failed to realise that the freedom, dignity and aspiration of the people can never be sold. This failure led her, along with the rank and file of the Awami League, to a disgraceful flight on August 5, 2024. Let this be a lesson for those who are treading the same path. I am certain it will not take another 15 years for the people to rise again. Because they know from recent memory that their dreams are NOT for sale. They know how and when to stand up for their freedom, dignity and dreams.

Money and power should never undermine justice

to intimidate survivors, enough arrogance to believe his money will rewrite court verdicts, and to casually threaten families into exile.

What does that say about our so-called “new Bangladesh?”

The answer is obvious. It says that stripping a party of power does not strip the system of its rot.

The names change, the faces rotate, but the old system grinds on—

No political party, disgraced or not, should be able to shield criminals. No amount of money should tip the scales of justice. And no survivor should have to run for their life because the courts, the police, and the system itself refuse to protect them.

fuelled by fear, influence, and political impunity. It just goes to show that no matter which flag someone waves, justice remains optional when money and muscle enter the room.

What makes this case even more dangerous is the silence around it. Where are the fiery speeches from the new champions of justice? Where is the accountability they promised? If the new leadership truly meant to clean house, Munshi would not

dare to make a mockery of the legal system.

This is not about one family or one case. It is about every survivor who dares to stand up, only to be met with more violence, more threats, more reasons to regret speaking out. It is about the culture we breed, where victims flee their homes—just as the Muradnagar rape survivor had to leave due to pressure from so-called journalists—while the abusers flaunt their wealth and political ties, new or old.

The Subarnachar survivor did everything right. She reported the crime, pursued legal action, refused to stay silent. In return, she lost her home, her safety, her peace. Her child, already robbed of innocence, now lives with fear as a constant companion. Meanwhile, Munshi boasts about his influence, his money, and his expectation that verdicts can be bought like cheap commodities.

If the interim government is serious about reform, this is where they prove it. No political party, disgraced or not, should be able to shield criminals. No amount of money should tip the scales of justice. And no survivor should have to run for their life because the courts, the police, and the system itself refuse to protect them.

Until men like Munshi, and the myriad “politically powerful” rapists, are stripped of their influence, their protection, and their arrogance, all our promises of justice, change, and progress will remain exactly what they have always been—lip service full of empty words.

Are we ready for a proportional representation system?



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KHAN KHALID ADNAN

The interim government’s reform drive, initiated last October through the formation of six commissions, has entered a crucial phase. These commissions—focusing on constitutional, electoral, judicial, administrative, and anti-corruption reforms—have submitted their reports. Now, the task of building political consensus on their recommendations rests with the seven-member National Consensus Commission, which began its work on February 15 under the leadership of the chief adviser. The commission’s mandate is to facilitate dialogue and agreement among political parties on proposals that could fundamentally reshape the nation’s governance framework.

One of the more contentious issues to have surfaced in recent discussions is whether Bangladesh should adopt a proportional representation (PR) system for future parliamentary elections. Political parties are divided. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami has publicly supported the idea and submitted proposals to that effect. Other parties have expressed similar interest, viewing PR as a route to more inclusive governance. But the BNP has strongly opposed it. Interestingly, despite the divide over PR, there is reported convergence on other structural reforms, such as the establishment of a bicameral legislature with a 100-member upper house and the assignment of the deputy speaker’s role to the opposition.

To assess the feasibility of PR, one must return to the constitution. Article 65(2) provides that members of parliament shall be elected from single-member territorial constituencies by direct election. This enshrines the first-past-the-

post (FPTP) model as the basis of Bangladesh’s electoral process. Any move to introduce PR for the lower house would require a constitutional amendment under Article 142, which demands a two-thirds majority vote in parliament—a hurdle that is currently insurmountable in the absence of an elected legislature.

Furthermore, the reform commissions themselves have not advocated for PR in the lower house, provided that the bicameral parliamentary model is implemented. The Constitution Reform Commission has proposed retaining the direct election model for the lower house while suggesting that the proposed upper house could be constituted through a proportional representation system (pages 51-52 of its report). Meanwhile, the Electoral Reform Commission, despite extensive consultations, refrained from making any recommendation on this issue, citing sharp political

It is tempting, in moments of democratic disillusionment, to look for structural fixes. But electoral systems are not magic wands. Their effectiveness depends on the political culture, institutional maturity, and level of public trust within which they operate.

disagreement (pages 84-87 of its report). The Electoral Reform Commission recognised that any change in the method of election

would require a consensus that simply does not exist at this stage.

The absence of any recommendation in favour of PR for the lower house has legal and procedural consequences. The mandate of the National Consensus Commission is confined to building agreement on the proposals previously submitted by the major

that the conversation about PR is unwarranted. As a theoretical model, PR has several merits. It promises to reduce the distortions produced by FPTP, under which a party can win an overwhelming majority of seats with a far smaller share of the popular vote. It offers a more inclusive framework, potentially giving smaller and emerging parties

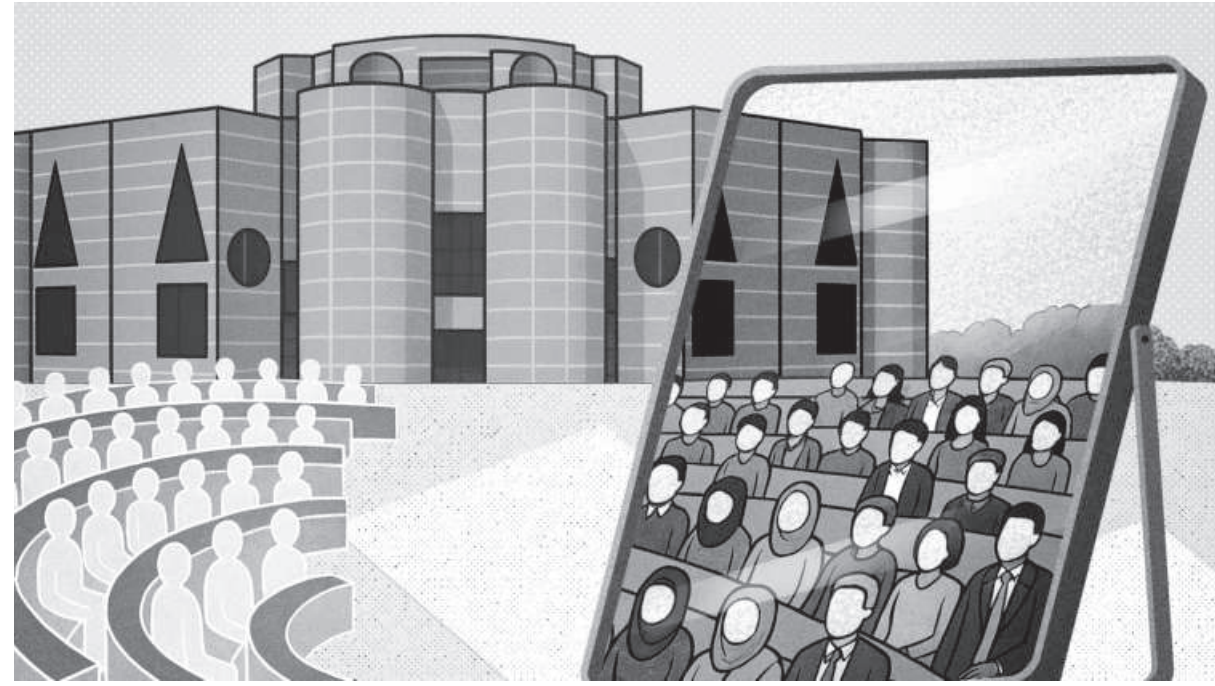
judged not in isolation but within the context in which it is to operate. Bangladesh’s political culture is highly polarised. Its democratic institutions remain fragile. Electoral processes have been repeatedly marred by violence, boycotts, and allegations of irregularities. In this context, PR might introduce new complexities rather than resolve

lower house is limited. Recently, 60 eminent citizens publicly called for a PR-based upper house to enhance inclusion and accountability. However, they were cautious about replicating that model for the lower house, fearing legislative gridlock and excessive fragmentation. Their view aligns with the Constitution Reform Commission’s recommendation: preserve direct elections in the lower house but use PR for the proposed upper chamber to ensure a balance between local representation and proportional fairness.

That, perhaps, offers a way forward. Bangladesh could consider a mixed electoral system in the future, combining FPTP and PR models. Such systems are used successfully in countries like Germany and New Zealand, where some parliamentary seats are filled by direct constituency vote and others by party list based on national vote share. Alternatively, Bangladesh could introduce PR incrementally, first at the local government level or in a newly created upper house, allowing for institutional adaptation and political learning.

For now, however, the road to a PR system in parliamentary elections remains closed—legally, politically, and procedurally. The current constitution does not allow it. The reform commissions have not endorsed it. The political consensus required to amend the constitution is absent. And the mandate of the National Consensus Commission technically does not extend to issues beyond the submitted reform proposals.

It is tempting, in moments of democratic disillusionment, to look for structural fixes. But electoral systems are not magic wands. Their effectiveness depends on the political culture, institutional maturity, and level of public trust within which they operate. PR may well be a worthy goal for the future. For now, Bangladesh must focus on restoring the credibility of its existing system, ensuring free and fair elections, and gradually building the conditions under which more ambitious reforms like PR could eventually take root.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

reform commissions, as it was established specifically to foster consensus around those earlier reform recommendations. Since the relevant commissions have not proposed PR for the lower house, this issue technically falls outside the scope of the current dialogue. More importantly, the Constitution Reform Commission has in fact proposed preserving the existing direct electoral system for the Jatiya Sangsad. It would therefore be institutionally inconsistent and procedurally misplaced for the National Consensus Commission to entertain a proposal that contradicts the reform roadmap already submitted.

This, however, does not mean

a fair chance at representation. It can encourage coalition politics, reduce political alienation, and better reflect the diversity of public opinion. In principle, PR systems also allow for greater representation of women, religious minorities, and other underrepresented groups. Unlike the existing system, which reserves seats for women through indirect party nominations, a well-designed PR system could enable women to be elected directly from party lists. Many countries that have adopted PR, such as Sweden, Nepal and South Africa, have seen marked improvements in the descriptive and substantive representation of marginalised groups.

Yet any electoral system must be

existing ones. Far from encouraging stable coalition governments, it could lead to fragmented parliaments filled with single-issue or regionally entrenched parties, making coherent governance difficult.

Another concern is institutional capacity. Implementing PR would require significant administrative reform, voter education, and legislative clarity. Public understanding of how votes translate into seats would need to be built through large-scale civic education programmes. Without careful preparation, the transition could create confusion and mistrust, further damaging an already strained electoral system.

Even among civil society, support for a blanket introduction of PR in the

WORLD POPULATION DAY

A fairer future depends on the empowerment of young people



Dr Mohammad Mainul Islam
is professor of the Department of Population Sciences at the University of Dhaka.

MOHAMMAD MAINUL ISLAM

Since 1990, the UN and other organisations have commemorated World Population Day (WPD) on July 11 of every year in partnership with governments and civil society to raise awareness about population issues, including their connections to the environment and development. This year’s WPD theme is “Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world.”

This theme is particularly relevant for Bangladesh, where over one-third of the population is under the age of 25. According to the Population and Housing Census 2022 (PHC 2022), there are approximately 31.56 million people aged 15-24 years, who are considered youth by the UN. For the 15-29 age group, the figure is 45.94 million (PHC 2022).

These youths represent significant numbers, challenges, and possibilities. We recognise that rights and choices are crucial concerns in development, particularly in population and development, as outlined in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. At the heart of human development lies the freedom to choose, and one of the most profound choices a person makes is whether, when, and how to create a family.

For young people around the world, especially in developing countries, this freedom is often limited by inequality, lack of access to education and healthcare, gender norms, and economic hardship. One

of the most fundamental aspects of youth empowerment is ensuring that young people have the right resources and support to create the families they want, on their terms. This means access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and freedom from social pressures. In building a fair and hopeful Bangladesh, we must place young people—especially young women—at the centre of family, policy, and development planning.

Young people are considered powerful agents of change, as evidenced by our country. The student and youth-led July uprising has proven it again. However, young people are also very vulnerable, particularly when it comes to forming families. And Bangladesh must prioritise their empowerment.

Young people should have the freedom to choose to delay marriage and parenthood. Despite progress, child marriage remains a serious challenge in the country. According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2022, over 50.7 percent of girls are married off before the age of 18, and over 16.7 percent by the age of 15, often leading to early and unplanned pregnancies, school dropouts, and long-term poverty. The BDHS 2022 report also reveals that the teenage pregnancy rate is 23.5 percent, a significant number of married adolescent girls in Bangladesh are having children. For every 1,000 adolescent married girls, 92 babies are born in a year,

which is remarkably high when compared to other countries in the South Asian region, highlighting a significant challenge related to early marriage, early childbearing, and associated health and social issues for young women. There is a significant gap between the total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.3, whereas the desired fertility rate is 1.3 (BDHS 2022).



In building a fair and hopeful Bangladesh, we must place young people—especially young women—at the centre of family, policy, and development planning.

PHOTO: CLICKLANCASHIRE.COM

Young people must be empowered to choose. Delaying marriage gives girls and boys the opportunity to complete their education, become financially independent, and make informed decisions about family life. Empowerment begins with freedom of choice and is supported by laws, communities, and families that uphold the dignity of young people.

Many young people in Bangladesh lack access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and rights (SRHR). The current contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) is the low among those aged 15-19 (53.9 percent), as evidenced in the BDHS 2022, whereas the total CPR for those

services must be available, accessible, affordable, equitable, of high quality, and confidential. The BHDS 2022 reports that decision-making about family planning is the lowest among those aged 15-19 (85.5 percent) and 20-24 (81.6 percent). Community health workers, clinics, and other stakeholders should be trained and encouraged to serve adolescents. Government and NGOs must collaborate to raise awareness and combat harmful myths and taboos. When young people are healthy and informed, they can make decisions that benefit both their families and their communities.

There is also an absolute need to

ensure gender equality and shared responsibility. Traditional gender roles often place the burden of childbearing and family care solely on women, limiting their freedom and opportunities. Empowering young women means giving them equal rights in marriage, parenting, and decision-making. Empowering young men means helping them learn to take responsibility, develop empathy, and offer support to their partners. In a fair Bangladesh, creating a family should be a shared, respectful partnership, not imposed by cultural or economic constraints.

Education and knowledge are considered the first line of defence. For that, access to quality education, especially for girls, is one of the most powerful tools for empowering youth to plan their futures. Girls who stay in school are more likely to marry later and have fewer, healthier children. Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) can help both girls and boys understand

Young people are considered powerful agents of change, as evidenced by our country. The student- and youth-led July uprising has proven it again. However, young people are also very vulnerable, particularly when it comes to forming families.

their bodies, relationships, rights, and responsibilities, which are essential knowledge for building healthy families. Expanding education to reach remote and marginalised communities remains a crucial step towards achieving

equal opportunities to address the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, there is a need to ensure economic stability and a sense of hope for the future. Young people cannot build strong families without financial stability. Yet many Bangladeshi youths face unemployment, job insecurity, and lack of access to credit or training. Youth unemployment is high. The PHC 2022 reports that 34.26 percent of the youth aged 15-24 are NEET (not in education, employment, or training). Adequate employment generation is strongly needed. Programmes like skill development, vocational training, microcredit, and entrepreneurship should be expanded for the youth, particularly young women. Social protection policies, such as maternity leave, childcare support, and affordable housing, can help young families thrive. A hopeful Bangladesh must provide real opportunities for youth to support the families they want to create.

Strong roles should be played by the government, private sector, and other key stakeholders in moving forward to build a more equitable, sustainable, and caring world where young people are empowered to pursue the lives they want for themselves. Government, civil society, and families must work together to enforce laws against child marriage and gender-based violence and promote youth participation in community and policy-making. More investment in education, healthcare, and job creation for young people is needed.

Finally, empowering young people to create the families they want is about more than reproductive rights; it is about justice, dignity, and opportunity. It means giving every young person, regardless of gender, income, or background, the tools and freedom to shape their future.



HBO Max greenlights ‘THE BIG BANG THEORY’ SPINOFF ‘STUART FAILS TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE’

HBO Max has greenlit a new comedy series titled *Stuart Fails to Save the Universe*, a spinoff of the hit sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*. Developed by Chuck Lorre, Zak Penn, and Bill Prady, the show stars Kevin Sussman as Stuart Bloom.

Joined by his girlfriend Denise (Lauren Lapkus), geologist Bert (Brian Posehn), and physicist Barry Kripke (John Ross Bowie), Stuart embarks on a mission to fix reality.

The series marks the fourth installment in *The Big Bang Theory* franchise, following *Young Sheldon* and *Georgie & Mandy’s First Marriage*, and is produced by Chuck Lorre Productions and Warner Bros Television.

‘MAINSTREAM’ XEFER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The ever-rebellious Xefer was the talk of the town once again this Eid, with *Lichur Bagane* being hummed in tea-stalls and blasted in parties. She also lent her voice in *Dhamaka* in Tasnia Farin and Sariful Razz starrer *Insaaf*.

“Times have changed, and I feel like this journey of making my own brand and taking risks has culminated in this perceived success,” says Xefer, over the phone. The singer had quite the career trajectory, from her album *Uncaged* to her first smash-hit *Jhumka*, to now being featured in multiple festive hits after last Eid’s *Niye Jaabe Ki*.

“I thought a lot about my music and what I wanted to do during Covid”, she reflects. “I believe that everything I did afterward led me to where I am today. I’ve stopped taking on lowball offers, attended music camps in the USA and collaborated with some of the best in the industry.”

While it was unthinkable for an artiste who was thought to be ‘niche’ and a ‘cover artiste’ to become this popular, Xefer has certainly defied all odds to become a mainstay in the industry.



WHAT’S THE HAPS?

‘Equanimity Sessions S03E01’

Equanimity Sessions (S03E01), a workshop on filmmaking for aspiring storytellers, is being held on July 14 at Studio Yellow Something Ltd, Niketan, Gulshan.

Acclaimed filmmaker and Chorki CEO Redoan Rony will lead the session, sharing his creative journey, practical filmmaking tools, and insights on OTT-era storytelling. The entry fee for the event is Tk 300. Registration is required, and seats are limited—available on a first-come, first-served basis. For further details, visit *Equanimity Sessions* on Facebook or call +8801643574435.

Date: Monday | July 14
Time: 6:30pm onwards
Venue: Studio Yellow Something Ltd, Niketan, Gulshan



Nepali film ‘Missing’ set for nationwide release in Bangladesh

The critically acclaimed Nepali film *Missing: Keti Harayeko Suchana* is set for a nationwide release in Bangladesh on July 18, 2025, under the SAFTA agreement.

Imported by Show Motion Limited in exchange for the Bangladeshi film *No Dorai*, the film will screen at all Star Cineplex branches. Directed by Dipendra Gauchan, the film stars Srishti Shrestha and Najir Husen in a cross-cultural love story that begins with a dark twist—a drugging and abduction—and unfolds across Nepal’s Madhesh region.

Praised for its depiction of folk traditions and scenic landscapes, the film explores love beyond ethnic boundaries. Star Cineplex’s Mesbah Uddin Ahmed confirmed that screenings will take place in Dhaka and nationwide.




Ed Sheeran unveils debut painting collection in London

British pop star Ed Sheeran has debuted his first art exhibition, *Cosmic Carpark Paintings*, at the Heni art gallery in London, running from July 11 to August 1.

The collection features colourful, Jackson Pollock-inspired abstract works, some of which will be available for purchase, with part of the proceeds supporting the *Ed Sheeran Foundation’s* music education initiatives.

Sheeran, known for chart-topping hits like *Shape of You* and *Perfect*, began painting in 2019 after his *Divide* tour. He shared behind-the-scenes footage of his creative process, crediting Damien Hirst for encouraging the show. The works were created in a disused car park and inspired by celestial themes.



NEWS

‘Help find my missing mother’

FROM PAGE 12

Foreigner Tribunal case (FT Case No/Jo/13)."

"After she was taken into custody, we came to know through social media that my mother had been pushed into Bangladesh. Later, we also heard she had returned to India from Bangladesh, but since then, we have received no further information," reads the letter.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Subhan said, "We are Indian nationals. The names of my grandfather, father, and mother are all listed in past voter lists. We have all the necessary documents to prove our citizenship."

Asked for possible reasons why his mother could be taken, he said that his family had an ongoing land dispute in Lankajan Darjisi of Nandapur Chariali, Hojai.

"Our rivals filed a case in 2011 with the local police station claiming we were Bangladeshi nationals. My mother was arrested in 2013 and jailed, but later the Supreme Court ruled in our favour and confirmed our Indian nationality. My mother was released afterwards."

According to Subhan, his mother was recently summoned by the superintendent of police to provide testimony and was then pushed into Bangladesh along with 65 others.

"After hearing the news, we went to the local BSF camp and submitted all documents proving our citizenship. BSF then held a meeting with Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and brought back

some individuals. But I have not been able to trace my mother since.

"I just want my mother back home... nothing else."

Meanwhile, BGB declined to comment on the specific incident.

However, BGB Director General Maj Gen Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui acknowledged that push-ins or pushbacks by BSF were happening regularly, including in some cases involving Indian nationals and Rohingyas.

"We've repeatedly asked the BSF for proper, legal handovers. But pushbacks are continuing. We have protested these incidents strongly," he told reporters after an event in Chattogram yesterday.

The BGB chief's remarks come amid mounting reports of Indian authorities pushing individuals, including Rohingyas and alleged undocumented migrants, into Bangladeshi territory, bypassing standard repatriation protocols.

According to government data, Indian authorities have forcibly pushed back over 1,900 people across the border into Bangladesh since May 7. Among them, over 200 were Rohingya refugees.

Maj Gen Siddiqui further said that international and national media have published reports highlighting these illegal actions.

Asked about BGB's response, he said, "We asked for a systematic repatriation process. If a Bangladeshi has illegally entered India, we're willing to repatriate them through coordination meetings

Swelling Teesta threatens

FROM PAGE 12

meteorological office in Feni recorded 61.1 millimetres of rainfall.

Around 50,000 people in parts of Fulgazi, Parshuram, Feni Sadar and Chhagalnaiya upazilas had become waterlogged, said Feni Deputy Commissioner Md Saiful Islam. Among them, 8,133 people from 2,255 families had taken refuge in 70 shelter centres.

Abul Kasem, a resident of Paschim Alka village in Parshuram, said they are yet to recover from the extensive damage caused by the June 24 flood and they have been hit again.

Different areas of Noakhali and Laxmipur towns have been waterlogged due to heavy rain in the last four days.

At least 300 families have so far been shifted to flood shelters in different upazilas across the district, said Noakhali's Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khandaker Ishtiaque Ahmed.

In the Barishal division, the water

level of several rivers crossed the danger level yesterday afternoon.

The water level of the Bishkhali river at Pathagatha point was flowing 3cm above the danger level, the Meghna river 42 cm above the danger level at Tazumuddin and the Baleswar river 9cm above the danger level at Pirojpur point as of 3:00 pm yesterday, said Tajul Islam, deputy assistant engineer of Water Development Board, Barishal.

In Barishal, after two consecutive days of heavy rain, the intensity has slightly decreased. Since Thursday morning, light drizzle has been reported across the city. According to the Met Office, 27 millimetres of rainfall were recorded in the 24 hours to noon.

Torrential rainfall caused waterlogging in most parts of Pirojpur town, including Botola, Amanatganj and Rupatali.

Bhola has experienced the highest

EC wants power

FROM PAGE 12

On costs, Sanaullah said a single postal ballot would cost Tk 700 via public post and up to Tk 5,000 using private couriers.

To oversee and expedite election preparations, the EC has formed five coordination and oversight committees, each headed by an election commissioner.

These seven-member teams will oversee law and order, field administration, polling official training, electoral laws and inquiries, expatriate voting, and coordination with both local and international observers.

This move comes a day after Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus directed the EC to complete all election preparations by December.

On delimitation, the EC said its technical committee is reviewing constituency boundaries.

"The delimitation process is at its final stage. There have been no objections in 221 constituencies. We hope to publish the full draft next week," said Sanaullah.

The issue of amending the Representation of the People Order (RPO) was discussed and will be revisited in future meetings.

The EC also reviewed a proposal for the EC Secretariat Act, suggesting a new "Election Commission Service"

The DG said that just a day before, BGB held a meeting with the Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to discuss these issues.

"It was a detailed discussion -- not just about BGB, but also about addressing manpower shortages across other law enforcement agencies. Increasing manpower is a time-consuming and costly process, but it is in progress."

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rainfall of the current monsoon season, recording a total of 380 millimetres over the past six days. In the last 24 hours alone, 93.3 millimetres of rain were recorded.

The continuous downpour has inundated low-lying areas of coastal upazilas, including Monpura, Tajumuddin, Char Fasson and Sadar. Although water levels have begun to recede, many areas remain waterlogged, leaving residents stranded.

Over in Rangamati, road communication on Langadu-Dighinala has remained suspended.

People are using boats to pass through the roads. The water level of the Maini River is increasing due to heavy rainfall, said locals.

The district administration, fire service and district information office are making announcements on loudspeakers to shift people from risky areas to safe places.

structure for recruiting officials like the EC secretary.

Until then, the commission will continue operating under the current system.

In terms of voter list updates, 4,406,602 new voters have been identified, while 2,132,590 deceased voters have been removed. A supplementary voter list will be released next week.

On the topic of unused EVMs, the EC has formed a committee to determine what action should be taken.

"EVMs will not be used in any upcoming election," Sanaullah reaffirmed.

Regarding a recent meeting with the National Consensus Commission, he said, "We had detailed discussions. It lasted two hours. We are on the same page."

Asked whether separate polling centres will be set up for young voters, he replied, "If there's a proposal aimed at motivating young voters who have become disinterested in voting, we will definitely consider it."

As for NID corrections, Sanaullah noted that when the current commission took over, 374,000 correction applications were pending.

"Over the past seven months, we have resolved 900,000 applications. Currently, 74,000 are pending."

NCP's Akhtar Hossain warned that vague terms like "internal disturbance" have been used to suppress dissent in the past. "Currently, the president can declare an emergency with the prime minister's countersignature. We propose that this require prior cabinet approval, or preferably approval from an all-party parliamentary committee or the full parliament."

Jamaat's Azad agreed: "Article 141A should be amended. Emergency powers must never become political weapons. We have also proposed ensuring citizens retain access to legal recourse during emergencies."

He suggested that the next parliament form a cross-party committee in its first session to review and recommend emergency declarations. "It should include ruling and opposition members to ensure balanced decision-making."

Salahuddin reiterated the need to curb political misuse of emergency powers. "There was broad agreement to reform articles 141B and 141C for this reason."

Prof Ali Riaz, vice president of the Consensus Commission, expressed optimism about the progress made in the discussion yesterday. "We hope to reach consensus on the remaining critical issues in upcoming sessions."

18 judges forced

FROM PAGE 12

Most of the forced retired judges were serving as special judges in various districts and different tribunals.

Of them, Bikash Kumar Saha, district and sessions judge, Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman, district and sessions judge, Md Nurul Islam, additional district and sessions judge, and Mohammad Hossain, joint district and sessions judge, are currently attached to the Law and Justice Division in Dhaka.

The other judges are Sheikh Mofizur Rahman (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Rajbari; Md Mahbubur Rahman Sarkar (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1, Kishoreganj; Sheikh Golam Mahbub (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Kushtia; Md Mojibur Rahman (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1, Gaibandha; Md Ehsanul Haque (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Bhola; Md Jewel Rana, (district and sessions judge), Jononirapotta Bighnokari Oporadh Doman Tribunal (Public Safety Disrupting Crimes Prevention Tribunal), Khulna; Md Monir Kamal (district and sessions judge), Cyber Tribunal, Sylhet; Shahidul Islam, special judge (district and sessions judge), Patuakhali; Al Mahmud Faizul Kabir, special judge (district and sessions judge), Dinajpur; Md Nazimuddoula, district and sessions judge, Tangail; AKM Mozammel Haque Chowdhury (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Thakurgaon; Fazle Elahi Bhuiyan (district and sessions judge), Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-3, Habiganj; Md Rustum Ali, member (district and sessions judge), Administrative Tribunal, Barishal; and AKM Enamul Karim, additional district and sessions judge, Patuakhali.

Publish July Charter

FROM PAGE 12

said, "Our fight is for a discrimination free, democratic, extortion and corruption-free Bangladesh. That fight is not over yet. We are here to deliver that message."

The NCP leader also said the party would expand its organisational activities in Magura, urging the people there to raise their voices against corruption and extortion.

"Ten people from Magura were martyred in the July mass uprising," said Nahid.

"We all have to uphold the honour of their blood. We must remember they gave their lives for a new Bangladesh, to rebuild the country. That is why we are on the streets," he said.

Every country faces

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh and has long been a key partner in the country's efforts to combat terrorism and enhance security.

"US support in training and equipment has played a vital role in building the capacity of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police," he said.

Jahangir thanked the Charg   d'Affaires for the assistance and requested continued cooperation in the sector.

Expressing a commitment to cooperate in Bangladesh's security sector, Bouldin said every country faces some level of risk from terrorism and militant attacks, and Bangladesh is no exception.

Bangladesh should nonetheless remain vigilant in this regard, she added.

In response, the adviser said there is no militancy in Bangladesh at present. "Occasionally, banned political parties try to organise rallies and demonstrations, but law enforcement agencies are strictly countering those attempts," he said.

Work together

FROM PAGE 3

– "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world" – is very timely.

Noting that a skilled population is the country's asset, the chief adviser said about 30 percent of Bangladesh's total population are adolescents and young people.

The country's socio-economic development depends on the education, health, standard of living, and empowerment of this large section of the population, he added.

Govt takes steps

FROM PAGE 3

Simultaneously, steps will be taken to rationally increase newspaper advertisement rates.

As per the commission's recommendations, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) will conduct a survey to assess audience, viewer, and reader satisfaction with media content.

To promote fair competition in the advertising industry, the ministry will consult the Bangladesh Competition Commission to investigate any alleged unfair practices.

The security deposit fee for FM radio licenses will be revised and reduced to a more reasonable level, the statement read.

In consultation with the National Board of Revenue (NBR), steps will be taken to exempt columnists, contributors, artists, and guest presenters or discussants in the media from advance income tax

PRAYER
TIMING

JULY 11

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-55 8-17

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Woman's body found in Ctg flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered 11 dismembered body parts of a woman from a flat in Chattogram's Raulabad area early yesterday.

The victim, Fatema Begum Poli, 32, was from Noakhali.

The incident occurred between 7:00pm and midnight on a JF Tower flat in the city's Paharika Residential Area.

Her husband, Md Suman, a pickup van driver, went into hiding after the incident, said Bayzid Bostami Police Station OC Md Kamruzzaman. He said police recovered several sharp weapons from the flat, including two scissors, a machete, a knife, a boti (traditional cleaver), and a saw.

Footprints and other evidence were also collected from the flat, the OC added.

SI Abid Hossen said being informed by neighbours, police reached the flat around 12:30am and recovered the body parts, which were sent to CMCH for autopsy. Efforts are underway to arrest the husband, said the OC.

Thousands suffer

FROM PAGE 4

He said around 500 students from the area cross the river daily to attend schools. "In the rainy season, children cross the river at great risk. Sometimes they have to stop going to school when flash floods inundate the area," he added.

Contacted, Md

July injured to get

FROM PAGE 3

He said the project is being treated as a priority and efforts will be made to start and finish it on time.

"If we get approval from Ecnc this month, we will begin the procedure as early as possible. The timeframe of the project is from July 2025 to June 2029," he said.

The final list of recipients will be determined later through consultations between the July Directorate, the NHA, and the ministry. Flats will be allocated based on the severity of injuries, he added.

On July 7, a Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) meeting was held at

China backs govt's

FROM PAGE 3

During the meeting, both sides expressed confidence in the prospects of the bilateral ties.

Recalling recent Investment Conference of China in Bangladesh, Wang Yi expressed China's interest to work with Bangladesh in the field of textiles, energy, light engineering, among others.

Foreign Adviser Touthid Hossain acknowledged with deep appreciation the political and development support extended by China to the current government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus.

He reiterated Bangladesh's call for an urgent and immediate solution to the Rohingya crisis and asked for China's support in this regard.

Touthid Hossain also urged China to support

Golam Kibria Pioul, upazila engineer of the Local Government and Engineering Department, said a spot survey and soil test were conducted, and a proposal for constructing a 100-metre bridge at the site was submitted last year. If approved, construction will begin, he added.

Later in the afternoon, he also met with Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and discussed possible means to expand bilateral relations, especially in the field of trade.

Anand expressed Canada's support in resolving the longstanding Rohingya crisis.

The foreign adviser was accompanied by Shameem Ahsan, high commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia; Forhadul Islam, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other senior officials of Bangladesh.

Touthid is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the 32nd ARF Ministerial Meeting, which is set to begin today.

Two friends share chips and laughter under an umbrella, embracing the downpour at Bells Park field in Barishal city.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

RMG worker stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A garment worker was stabbed to death by a group of robbers at Tongi Bazar flyover in Gazipur on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway early yesterday, said police.

The deceased, Mahfuzur Rahman, 25, was employed at Blue Fashion Garments in Tongi. The incident took place around 1:00am. Tongi West Police Station OC Iskandar Habibur Rahman said the deceased had gone on vacation to his village home in Barishal on July 6.

He was walking along the Tongi flyover upon his return from vacation. A group of robbers stopped him and attempted to snatch his mobile phone and money. When Mahfuzur tried to resist, the attackers stabbed him with sharp weapons before fleeing the scene, the OC said.

Hearing his screams, locals rescued and took him to Tongi Government Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

The OC said police are trying to arrest the assailants.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka

Memo No. 44.01.0000.431.31.002.2025/2355

Date: 10 July, 2025

Invitation for Local Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Manufacturers/Suppliers/Local Agents in their official letterhead pad for the purchase of the following items for Bangladesh Police. Manufacturers/Suppliers/Local Agents must read and fill up the tender documents cautiously, so that the offered package complies with the tender documents. Conditional or alternative offer shall not be evaluated.

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka
3.	Head of procuring entity	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police
4.	Invitation for	Purchase of goods (Automobile Spare Parts)
5.	Invitation Reference No.	Memo No. 44.01.0000.431.31.002.2025/01 (2025-2026) FY
6.	Date	10 July, 2025
KEY INFORMATION		
7.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
8.	Budget and source of fund	GOB (Revenue)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
9.	Tender Package No.	Package 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12.
10.	Tender package name	Supply of Automobile Spare Parts
11.	Tender publication date	11 July, 2025
12.	Tender last selling date	06 August, 2025
13.	Tender closing date and time	07 August, 2025 at 12.00pm
14.	Tender opening date and time	07 August, 2025 at 12.30pm
15.	Designation of the officer & address	Addl. DIG (MT & Workshop), Level-4, NCCOM Building, Police Headquarters, Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.
	Address of	
	-Selling tender document	
	-Receiving tender document	
16.	-Opening tender document	31 July, 2025 at 15.00pm, Level-4, NCCOM Building, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
17.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	(i) Up-to-date trade license (ii) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate (iii) Up-to-date VAT registration certificate (iv) Other papers described in the tender document.
18.	Brief description of goods	Automobile spare parts

Pack age	Description of spare parts/goods	Price of tender document	Tender security amount (BDT)	Completion time
(1)	Spare Parts of Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep, L-300 Microbus, L-200 Pick-up, Fuso Rosa Minibus. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	For the financial year (2025-2026) & till next contract to be in effect.
(2)	Nissan Patrol Jeep, Mitsubishi Pajero Jeep (Patrol), Daihatsu Terios and Mitsubishi Out Lander Jeep. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(3)	Spare Parts of Toyota V8 Land Cruiser Jeep, Fortuner Jeep, Hi-Ace Microbus, Hi-lux Pick-up, Dyna Truck. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(4)	Spare Parts of Nissan Civilian Minibus, Urban Microbus, Nissan Pick-up, Isuzu Ambulance, Isuzu Truck, Isuzu & Ford Pick-up. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(5)	Spare Parts of Mitsubishi Galant, Xpander, Lancer, Toyota GLi, Proton, Nissan and Hyundai Sonata Car. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(6)	Spare Parts of Tata Truck/ Bus, Water & Fuel Tanker, Ashok Leyland and HINO Truck. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(7)	Spare Parts of Fork Lift, Wrecker and Riot Van/Water Canon. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	2,00,000/-	
(8)	Spare Parts of Yuejin, Eicher Jumbo, Kamaz, Hino and Taima Truck/Tanker. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(9)	Tyre & Battery. (Lot 1 to 2)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(10)	Servicing & Vulcanizing, Welding, Tailoring, Electric & Auto Electric, Painting Goods & Items. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(11)	Spare Parts of Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) & Crowd Control Vehicle. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	5,00,000/-	
(12)	Spare Parts of Motorcycle. (Lot 1 to 5)	1000/-	2,00,000/-	

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19.	Name & address of the official inviting tender	Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM-Sheba, Addl. DIG (MT & Workshop), Bangladesh Police, Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
20.	Contact details of the official inviting tender	Tel: 02-55101708 Email: addldigmt_w@police.gov.bd
21.	Important conditions:	
a.	Bangladesh Police will sign a framework agreement with successful tenderer(s) for supply of goods. Purchase order will depend on the demand of FPU Mission & PHQ's MT Section.	
b.	Tender will be evaluated on item basis.	
c.	Other terms and conditions are mentioned in tender documents.	
d.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any/all tenders or annul the tender proceeding at any time without causing any reason.	
e.	If it is not possible to receive or open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time and venue.	
f.	The procurement will be done according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 & Public Procurement Regulation-2008.	

Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM-Sheba
Addl. DIG (MT & Workshop)
For/- Inspector General, Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
Tel: 02-55101708
E-mail: addldigmt_w@police.gov.bd

GD-1557

GD-1563

বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি

আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

৫৩, মহাখালি, বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২১২

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'এসোসিয়েট অব বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি' (এবিআইএ) কোর্সে

মে-২০২৫ পর্বে ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত

বীমা শিল্পের প্রসার, দক্ষ জনশক্তি সৃষ্টি এবং এ পেশায় নিয়োজিত জনবলকে যুগের চাহিদা মোতাবেক পেশাগত জ্ঞানে সমৃদ্ধ করে পড়ে তুলতে 'এসোসিয়েট অব বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমি' (এবিআইএ) কোর্সটি অতীব গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা পালন করে আসছে। বীমা শিল্পের ক্রমবর্ধমান অগ্রযাত্রায় অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য প্রতি বৎসরের ন্যায় এবারও বাংলাদেশ ইনসিওরেন্স একাডেমির এসোসিয়েটশীপ কোর্সে মে-২০২৫ পর্বে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আগ্রহী সকলকে আহ্বান জানানো হচ্ছে। এসোসিয়েটশীপ কোর্সে ভর্তি ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানের সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপ:

বিষয়	সময়সীমা	ফি
ভর্তি ও রেজিস্ট্রেশন	১৩ জুলাই থেকে ৩১ জুলাই ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত	১,০০০/- টাকা
কার্ডসিলিং ফি এবং পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান	১৩ জুলাই থেকে ৩১ জুলাই ২০২৫ পর্যন্ত	প্রতি বিষয় কার্ডসিলিং ফি ৫০০/- টাকা প্রতি বিষয় পরীক্ষার ফি ৫০০/- টাকা
কার্ডসিলিং ক্লাশ	১০ অগাস্ট-২০২৫ থেকে শুরু	
প্রবেশপত্র সংগ্রহ	১৫ সেপ্টেম্বর-২০২৫ থেকে শুরু	
পরীক্ষা শুরুর সন্ধ্যা তারিখ:	২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর-২০২৫ হতে শুরু	পরীক্ষার সময় সূচি ওয়েব সাইটের মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যাবে।

* এসোসিয়েটশীপ কোর্সে ভর্তি ও পরীক্ষার নিয়মাবলী একাডেমির ওয়েব সাইটে (www.bia.gov.bd) পাওয়া যাবে।

* রেজিস্ট্রেশন ফি, পরীক্ষার ফি, কার্ডসিলিং ফি, মেম্বারশীপ ফি Dutch Bangla Mobile Bank (A/C No:1973) রকেট এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।

** ভর্তির জন্য যোগ্যতা: নূনতম স্নাতক ডিগ্রি

যোগাযোগ ও বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য:

• ফোন: ০২-২২২২৯৯১৩৬

• মোবাইল: ০১৯১৫-৮৭৬৯৭৬, ০১৩২০-৩৯১৪৭০, ০১৭৪৫-৩৫৯০৬৯, ০১৭১১-৯৬৩৫৫৫

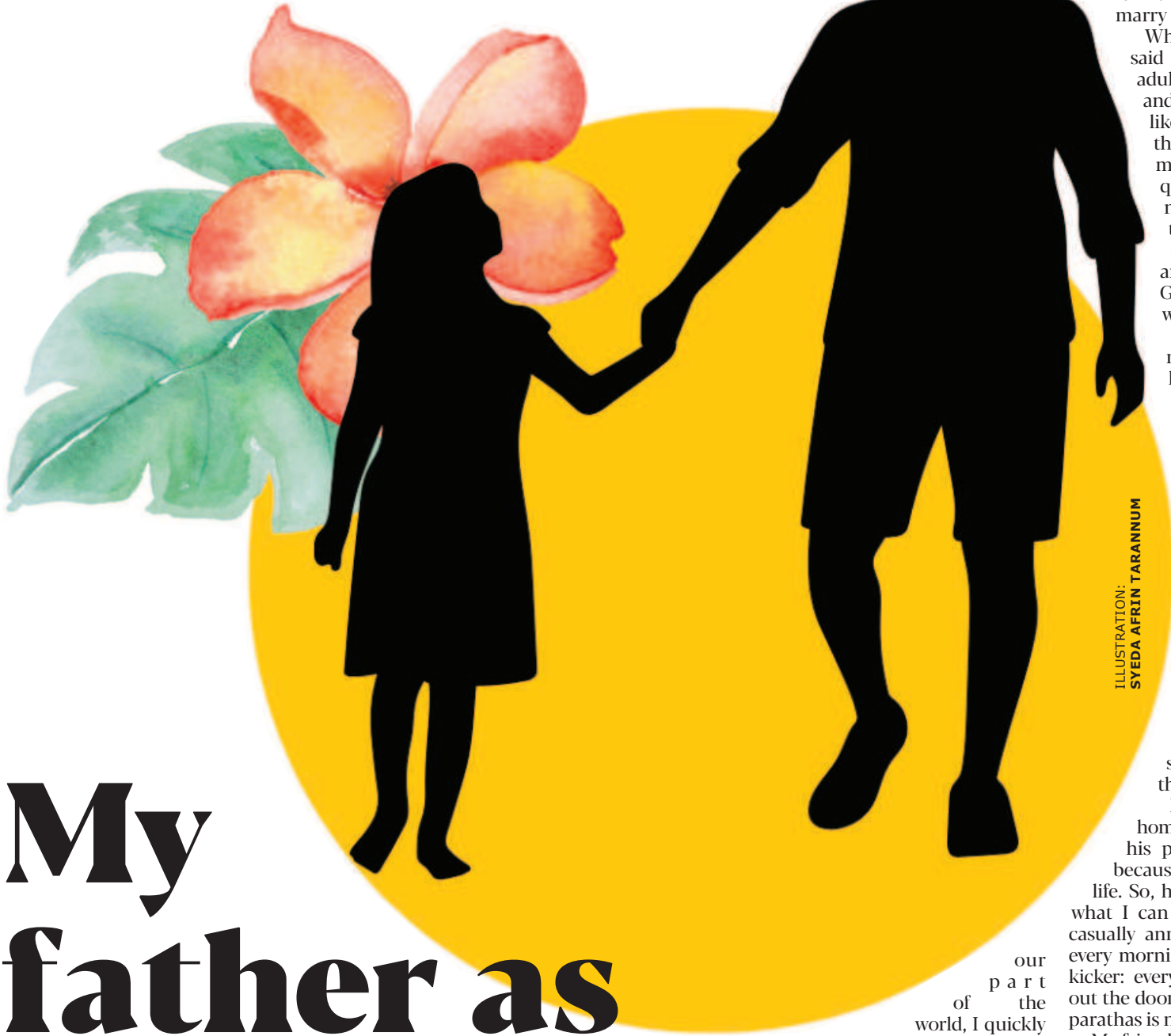
ফ্যাক্স: ০৮৮০৩-২৮৮২০৭২, E-mail: bangladeshinsuranceacademy@gmail.com

স্বাক্ষরিত/-

(ড. দেলোয়ার হোসেন)

(যুগ্মসচিব)

পরিচালক (অ.দা:)



My father as a person

My father is not malicious; he is kind, generous with affection, and funny. He surprises me with things I love to eat, he makes me tea some days, he makes jokes when I am bummed but when I observe him as a person who is a husband to my mother, I have to see him from a different light.

ALKA HUSSEIN

I had never thought to question what it meant to be a daughter. In the way that roles settle around us before we are old enough to name them, mine was inherited. I learned very early to step into my mother's shoes when she was not there to fill them herself. In a South Asian household, familial duties are not so much assigned as observed, I believe.

With that "doing something unquestioningly", I forgot to observe my father as a person.

I was the one to learn to serve the men of the house. My mother is a wise woman, always managing work and her home in ways I see as exploitative, but I believed in anatomy is destiny as a girl groomed by the status quo. One does not need to quote Marx, Engels, or Fromm because these are felt when you have little to leverage on. Theories came much later in life, but 15-year-old me could understand the jargon quite easily thanks to my role as a "good daughter".

Even though the two are often conflated in

our part of the world, I quickly understood the difference between being a good father and a good husband. This comes as no surprise when my father always focused on putting food on the table, even though my mother put the same amount of food on the same table, but also had the duty of being a good homemaker. She, just like me, never questioned it, nor did my father, because why would he? He occupied the sweet spot of modern manhood—progressive enough to "allow" his wife to work, traditional enough to expect warm meals waiting for him at the end of the day. It was a winning arrangement, at least for one of them.

See, it is incredibly tricky writing about a man who is both loved and implicated. My father is not malicious; he is kind, generous with affection, and funny. He surprises me with things I love to eat, he makes me tea some days, he makes jokes when I am bummed but when I observe him as a person who is a husband to my mother, I have to see him from a different light. The tenderness he shows me does not undo the comfort he has enjoyed for years in a marriage that has asked more of one than the other. It is a strange, dissonant thing to hold someone close and still see the ways they benefit from a system that has kept another you love in its debt.

I ask my mother what she likes about her husband, but she lists things he does as a father. The reliability of fatherhood is mistaken for the affections of a spouse. I suppose this is

how it is for many of our mothers: they marry men and stay for the fathers.

When I was little, my mother never said a word about my father. But my adulthood opened something in her, and now the sorrow comes in drips, like a leaking tap that has stood the test of time. Little shards of memory, not loud, not angry, just quiet things like the burden of never being appreciated for the things she brings to the table, sometimes as a working woman, and sometimes as a homemaker. Grief in teaspoons, not tumults. A woman's sadness, served gently.

But little does she know that I noticed her sadness well before she held out her little hands to me.

My father sees my mother's labour as breath, as weather, as something that arrives without asking and will never leave. He does not name it, does not thank it—why thank the sun for rising? The hours she works outside the house and then inside it crumble into one long, invisible shift. He believes himself a good man—better than most—because once, he cleared the table, and once, he cooked rice and left the kitchen glowing with his own virtue. But he forgets: these were choices he made, little gestures seeking applause. For my mother, there were no choices.

My friend, whose mother is a homemaker, told me this story about his parents that still makes me sad because much of it resonates with my life. So, his dad, freshly retired and full of what I can only call "breakfast ambitions", casually announces he'd like fresh parathas every morning from now on. Now, here's the kicker: everyone knows his mom has to be out the door early for work, and making fresh parathas is no quick microwave fix.

My friend found the whole request, frankly, a bit absurd. Who asks for something so time-consuming without thinking about the logistics? He told his father this, protesting on his mother's behalf, but you could see it—the poor guy was genuinely bummed. Like, breakfast without the perfect flaky paratha just wasn't going to cut it. The funny thing is, his mother still got up early to make parathas for breakfast, unthanked.

So, yes, my father is not malicious. But he is inconsiderate in ways that chip away slowly and wear a person down without ever raising his voice. He does not thank her because it does not occur to him that thanks are needed. He thinks he is a good husband because he ate the food he did not enjoy, because he sometimes does the smidgen and expects it to count for more. But he forgot what it means to be a partner. His wife, my mother, bore it all in silence, her love turned into labour, her days a long line of things he did not notice.

It used to be very difficult to see him as a product of patriarchy because he spoke the language of my discontent. Maybe he is a funny person because he did not have to worry about dinner, never had to rush home with a mind already full of tomorrow. Seeing my father as a person truly revealed my fear of becoming like my mother as a wife (should I choose to be one someday). So instead of being an agreeable daughter who has to fill in my mother's shoes, I choose to throw the shoes away because they give me the same blisters they gave my mother.

The growing chasm of BookTok

SILWAT QUADER

Although there had been a readers' community on YouTube and Goodreads, where people from all across the globe reviewed and shared recommendations of all types of genres of books, it did not garner nearly as much attention as the community on TikTok, otherwise known as BookTok. What worked for the community was its short videos, which created a fast-growing forum where readers and writers came together to connect over the shared love of books.

Not only did BookTok captivate readers to pick up titles based on the short videos but it also played a significant role in reviving the publishing industry, which had been witnessing a steady decline with fewer book sales. Readers found renewed interest in each content that they consumed, while many others continued to join the community. With a new flock of readers to cater to, authors were also compelled to write and publish new works.

During its early rise, BookTok had positively influenced both readers and writers alike – quantified through millions of views, trendy challenges, visually appealing montages, reviews, and recommendations. However, like all chapters, no matter how beloved, the glory days of BookTok too, is beginning to come to an end.

Despite its soaring success, criticism from critics has been levied against the sub-community – with many accusing it of enabling overconsumption, promoting anti-intellectualism, and normalising problematic tropes.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

The influx of content featuring beautifully illustrated book covers that particularly cater to the visual aspect has led many to buy books exclusively for aesthetics. As a result, more books with eye-catching covers have been printed and sold compared to simple or "mundane" ones, inciting a performative reading culture.

The impact that BookTok has had in rejuvenating the industry is undeniable. Nonetheless, it has adversely skewed the market by heavily promoting a narrow range of genres, especially to a younger audience. For instance, young adult (YA) books exploring mature themes featuring content that may not be age-appropriate are falsely advertised to an underage audience.

Additionally, books with explicit themes are marketed under the broad label of romance. While young readers may not be the target audience for these books, it still remains accessible to them. The increasing demand and popularity for this particular genre itself isn't the issue. Rather, it is the fact that some writers tend to weave in themes of trauma, violence or abuse through a romanticised lens. This is not only a gross misrepresentation but also deeply harmful to impressionable young readers.

Some writers have incorporated such attributes out of fear that refusal to conform will curtail their publication chances, while others followed suit more willingly. In fact, authors are pushed by publishing houses to keep generating these tired, clichéd dark romances, as they bring in most sales.

What used to be a space where readers could share individual ideas and opinions has now transformed into an echo chamber. Criticism or perspectives that differ from the general view are mostly dismissed, leading many to distance themselves from their once-cherished BookTok community. Moreover, the oversaturation of similar genres published and marketed reinforces the lack of diversity on the platform, which is yet another reason readers are taking a step back.

BookTok has also come under scrutiny because of the promotion of recycled tropes that deliver little literary depth. As a result, the consensus is that readers are not gaining any substantial value and are missing out on the enriching experience that literature is meant to offer. Change in the reading culture with time and age is inevitable. And literature should evolve and transform accordingly. However, it is not evolution if the changes actively take away from the wonders of reading.

When a child is their parents' second chance

Do your parents see you as individuals with your own choices, or do they see you as extensions of themselves?

HASIB UR RASHID IFITI

Bangali parents are perhaps one of the most complex species to exist. No two are ever quite the same. Yet, if you squint hard enough, you might notice that most fall into two broad camps: those who see their children as individuals with own choices, and those who see them as extensions of themselves.

Both kinds have the same parental fears that all parents have had since time immemorial – concern about kids' safety, their future, and their security in life. But it's the way in which they approach these insecurities that makes these two groups so vastly different.

The first group of parents respects their child's individuality and acknowledges them as a separate entity with their own choices. They don't always agree with the decisions their children make, but they allow room for difference. There are arguments, of course – sometimes loud and chaotic – but the arguments happen because voices are allowed to exist. The child is allowed to hold opinions different to their parents and there are conversations regarding the difference rather than the parent refusing to hear it out in the first place.

Then there's the second group – the one whose love comes with invisible strings. Here, parental concern



ILLUSTRATION: ABIR HOSSAIN

morphs into control. While it might originate from parental attachment, it slowly grows into a parasitical branch grasping over every single aspect of the child's life. Not just academic or career choices, the control slowly transforms into micromanaging the daily life and absolute control over the child's emotions. Sadness is met with impatience. Anger is punished, not explored. But where does this parental trait originate from?

Most of our parents grew up in post-independence Bangladesh – scarred by uncertainty, defined by struggle. For many of them, life was about survival: moving to cities with empty

pockets, working jobs they didn't love, sacrificing dreams they couldn't afford to chase, and so on. Their fight was to provide us with what they never had: stability. Chasing stability and growth, they had to let go of aspirations, ambitions, and their own self-interests. They simply couldn't afford to risk it all.

With time, they were able to provide their children with the financial backup that they didn't have. Thanks to their sacrifices, most of us have a place to land if or when we fall. But in the quest to make sure we never fall, many forgot to let us fly.

Here lies the paradox: If financial

stability was the dream, and we now have it – shouldn't we be allowed to dream beyond survival? What good is security if we must live the same life our parents did, minus the hunger? What is even the point of financial stability if the child has to pursue the same mediocrity its parents had to while battling financial instability?

The truth is, many of these parents do want their kids to succeed. But they want that success on their terms: the right degree, the right job, the right life. Too often, the kids are cast in unfinished stories – asked to chase dreams that were never theirs to begin with. With the security the children have been provided with, the parents want them to complete whatever incompleteness they had in life. A more prestigious institution, a bigger job, a grander title – the kids end up chasing goals the parents had defined for them, living someone else's incomplete life.

And perhaps the greatest tragedy? So many of us are strangers to the very people we call family. Parents might see their children every day without the slightest idea of who they actually are. So, here's the question: If we trade away our dreams for someone else's definition of success, even if it's wrapped in love and sacrifice, are we really living or just existing?

Reach Ifi's spam at hasiburrashidifti@gmail.com

SPORT

What to WATCH

T SPORTS

SAFF U20 Women's C'ship
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka
Live from 3:00 pm
Nepal vs Bhutan
Live from 7:00 pm
SONY SPORTS 1 AND 5

England vs India
2nd Test, Day 2
Live from 4:00 pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT HD1 AND 2
Wimbledon
Live from 6:00 pm



LANKANS OUTCLASS TIGERS

It took Sri Lanka 19 overs to assail Bangladesh's mediocre 155-run target in the first T20I at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium yesterday, but the seven-wicket win for the hosts was much more convincing than the scoreboard suggests. Having limited the Tigers to 154 for five in 20 overs, Sri Lanka got off to a flying start. Openers Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis stitched together a 78-run opening stand off just 28 deliveries as the Lankans accumulated 83 for one in the Powerplay -- their highest score in the first six overs in the format. Sri Lanka's scoring rate dropped in the middle overs, but it seemed as if it was their choice rather than a turnaround by Bangladesh bowlers. With five boundaries and three maximums, Nissanka scored a brisk 16-ball 42. Mendis top-scored with a 51-ball 73-run knock, guiding the hosts to the brink of victory before falling to Mohammad Saifuddin, back in the squad after more than a year, in the 18th over. The victory helped Sri Lanka go 1-0 up in the three-match series.

PHOTO: AFP



Phenomenal PSG, dazzling Dembele

Real humbled in CWC semifinal

AGENCIES

It never seemed like Ousmane Dembele was making his first start at the Club World Cup during PSG's 4-0 thrashing of Real Madrid in the semifinal on Wednesday.

Rested throughout the group stage due to a thigh injury and having only made substitute appearances in earlier knockout rounds, Dembele started against European giants Real Madrid and made an immediate impact. He assisted Fabian Ruiz for the opening goal in the sixth minute before finding the net himself three minutes later at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Dembele, a player who struggled to fulfill his potential at Barcelona and was often sidelined



PHOTO: REUTERS

due to injuries, has become a lethal weapon in Luis Enrique's PSG side.

His goal to make it 2-0 was his 35th for PSG in 52 games across all competitions since last August -- making him the frontrunner for the Ballon d'Or, especially after helping PSG move to the brink of their fifth title this season.

Winners of Ligue 1, the French Cup, the Trophée des Champions, and the Champions League, PSG could complete a clean sweep this season by beating Chelsea in Sunday's final at the same venue.

Enrique's comments after the game perfectly summed up Dembele's impact, which goes beyond just the goals he scored.

"For me, when it comes to the Ballon d'Or, I must say that the players who can win it have to not just score goals and set up goals, but help their team to win trophies. Ousmane Dembele does those things more than any other player," Enrique said.

Consider the way PSG got their first two goals against Real Madrid. It was Dembele who capitalised on defensive errors from Los Blancos, pressing higher than anyone else -- something he had been doing all season.

Under Enrique, PSG have become a well-oiled machine, with collective brilliance now shining through after the departure of star names like Neymar, Kylian Mbappe, and Lionel Messi. But if one player could still be picked as the standout, it would most certainly be Dembele -- the one who helped uplift the French side while pushing for the biggest individual prize in football.

‘Culture never formed where selectors explain to players’

"As long as [Mehidy Hasan] Miraz is playing, Mosaddek [Hossain] doesn't stand a chance." That explosive remark by chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu sparked a firestorm, casting fresh scrutiny on the national team's selection process. But how did Mosaddek Hossain himself process the comment? In an exclusive interview with **The Daily Star's Abdullah Al Mehdi**, the 29-year-old allrounder -- with 80 international matches under his belt -- opened up about the issue and more.

The Daily Star (DS): How did the chief selector explain his remarks to you?

Mosaddek Hossain (MH): Yes, I saw him speaking about it in the media yesterday [July 9]. In Chattogram, though, he apologised to me in person and explained that his comment was mainly about the Test team. He told me not to take it to heart and that I was on their radar.

As you can understand, I was feeling very low at that time, so when someone like him, very senior to me, comes and says that, there is not much to say from my end.

DS: You came to know about his comments from the media? How did that feel?

MH: I actually came to know from social media. There was a practice match that very day, with Nathan Kelly overseeing things [for the camp ahead of the Sri Lanka series], and I bowled okay. In the next match though, my body played, but my mind wasn't there after seeing that news... I would have felt frustrated if some other player was talked about in that way.

DS: After excelling with both bat and ball (highest wicket-taker) in the Premier League, did you expect a national team recall? Your knock in the final was special.

MH: You see, Abahani or

Mohammedan always try to build strong squads, and they demand performance and consistency. It's not like I have been playing in Abahani for 13 years without a reason.

This year, it was a tough time and players had to take a 40-60 percent payout... and there was less security. Amid these issues, obviously I saw hope that maybe a chance could arrive since I performed. But after hearing those comments [from the chief selector], not only my faith but my motivation took a hit.

DS: You felt you won't make the national team ever again?

MH: Yes, the comments were like that. Would I ever want Miraz to play badly? He is Bangladesh captain and... our roles are different. I wouldn't want anything bad for my enemy, whereas Miraz is my closest younger brother.

DS: You were in contention during the West Indies tour when the 2023 World Cup squad was taking shape, but why weren't you picked?

MH: The thing is, it was about my role. I used to bat at 6-7, but at that time I was batting at 7-8... In that

series, I feel that from the bowling side, I performed as per team requirement.

DS: Did you reach out to the selectors or hear anything from them personally?

MH: In Bangladesh cricket, this culture never formed where a player asks a selector directly or they provide an explanation.

You might get a few examples, but I haven't. There are many instances where an input from a player could be of value. We always find things from social media.

DS: Do you feel you are on the radar now?

MH: I am quite confused. This year, the India series in August was cancelled. There are a few series later this year, but no ODIs. So, what will my task be like in these six months?

DS: How do you see the team's middle order and your chances?

MH: You see, [Mahmudullah] Riyad bhai and Mushfiqur [Rahim] bhai had left, and even Sri Lanka faced such a time when some players retired... But I don't think it would take much time to get over the tough period since in ODIs we were the most confident.



Four captains -- (from L to R) Bangladesh's Afeida Khandokar, Nepal's Birsana Chaudhary, Sri Lanka's Sanduni Sewmini and Bhutan's Tshendu Tshering Pelzom -- pose with the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship trophy following a pre-tournament briefing at a city hotel yesterday. The tournament will get underway today at the Bashundhara Kings Arena with favourites Bangladesh beginning their title defense against Sri Lanka while title aspirants Nepal take on Bhutan in the day's second match at the same venue.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SHORT CORNER

BPL may shift to May window

Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) governing council's new chairman Mahbub Anam on Thursday said that the upcoming BPL may be shifted from December-January window, depending on the upcoming general elections. "We will take the next steps depending on the government's decision, and May [window] is another option [to hold BPL]," Mahbub said.

Hamza and Co slip in FIFA rankings

Bangladesh have slipped one spot in the latest FIFA rankings following their 2-1 defeat to Singapore on June 10 in the Asian Cup qualifiers at the National Stadium. Back on March 25, Bangladesh played out a goalless draw against India in Shillong in the same tournament, a result that had lifted Hamza Choudhury and his teammates two places to 183rd in the rankings. However, the loss to Singapore has now dropped them to 184th.

***Read full stories on The Daily Star's website*



England batter Joe Root plays a shot during the opening day's play of their third Test against India at Lord's on Thursday. England reached 251 for four in 83 overs at Stumps. Root, unbeaten on 99, stitched together an unbroken 79-run fifth-wicket stand with skipper Ben Stokes, who scored 39 not out, to help the hosts recover from 172 for four.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Sinner stands in Djokovic's road to 25

STAR SPORTS DESK

Wimbledon's men's singles semifinals promise high drama on Friday, with the headline act featuring a blockbuster showdown between seven-time champion Novak Djokovic and world number one Jannik Sinner.

But before that, two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz will face American Taylor Fritz in the first semifinal.

Alcaraz, riding a 23-match winning streak and unbeaten at Wimbledon since 2022, is chasing a third consecutive final at the All England Club.

Jannik Sinner will face Novak Djokovic for the ninth time, holding a narrow 5-4 edge in their head-to-head record.

Carlos Alcaraz and Taylor Fritz have met twice before, with the Spaniard winning both matches comfortably.



While he's dropped four sets this tournament, the Spaniard looked dominant in a straight-sets quarterfinal win over Cameron Norrie.

Opponent Fritz, in his first Wimbledon semi-final, will hope to ride the momentum of his hard-fought five-set wins earlier in the tournament.

Yet it's the second semifinal that takes centre stage. The 38-year-old

Serb is bidding for a record 25th Grand Slam title and an eighth Wimbledon crown to equal Roger Federer's mark. Despite a minor injury scare after a fall in his quarterfinal win over Flavio Cobolli, Djokovic is determined to go the distance.

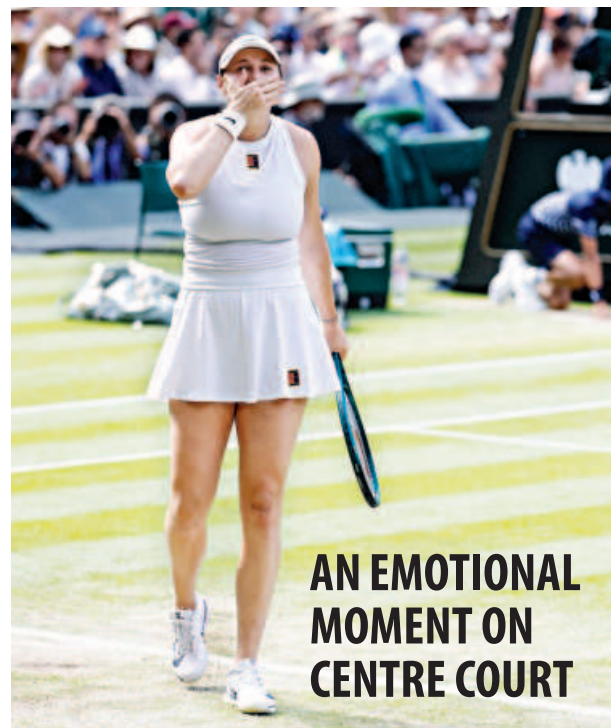
"I just try to focus on recovery now," Djokovic said. "It's going to take the best of me to beat Jannik."

Sinner, meanwhile, has enjoyed a strong run despite elbow concerns, which surfaced during his fourth-round match against Grigor Dimitrov.

The Italian, now into his second Wimbledon semifinal, dismissed Ben Shelton in straight sets and seems ready for the physical and mental test ahead.

The 23-year-old leads Djokovic 5-4 in their head-to-head and won their most recent meeting at Roland Garros. However, Djokovic has defeated Sinner both times they've met at Wimbledon, including a four-set victory in last year's semi-final.

"We know each other well," Sinner said. "But I've never beaten him here. It will be a very tough challenge."



AN EMOTIONAL MOMENT ON CENTRE COURT

PHOTO: REUTERS

Amanda Anisimova blows a kiss to the crowd, overwhelmed with joy and disbelief after reaching her maiden Wimbledon final by outclassing world number one Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 yesterday. Anisimova will face Iga Swiatek, who will also be making her first appearance in a Wimbledon final after blazing past Belinda Bencic 6-2, 6-0 in the other semifinal.

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Swelling Teesta threatens the northern dists

Over 100 villages still inundated in Feni

STAR REPORT

More than 100 villages remain inundated following embankment breaches at 20 points in Feni, while a fresh threat looms in the north as the rising Teesta river may trigger temporary flooding in low-lying areas of Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

In the last 24 hours, moderate to heavy rainfall was observed in the coastal and northeastern regions of the country, specifically in Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna and Barishal divisions.

If this continues over the next three days, the flood situation in the divisions may worsen, according to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC)'s bulletin yesterday.

The FFWC also warned of temporary flooding in the northern districts -- including Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat -- in the next 24 hours.

The water level of the Kushiara River may rise to the warning level and temporarily inundate low-lying areas adjacent to it in the Sylhet district.

A total of 106 villages in Fulgazi, Parshuram, Feni Sadar and Chhagalnaiya upazilas are flooded, with more villages coming under water as embankments along the Muhuri, Kahuya and Selonia rivers in Fulgazi and Parshuram upazilas were breached in 20 places.

In the 24 hours to 3:00pm Thursday, the regional

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Heavy rains have submerged large areas of Feni, where over 100 villages were flooded following breaches in the embankments of the Muhuri, Kahua, and Selonia rivers. The photo was taken in the Munshirhat area of Fulgazi upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

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Publish July Charter by August 3 or face protests

Nahid tells govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party (NCP) will take to the streets again if the government fails to publish the "July Proclamation" and "July Charter" by August 3, said the party's Convenor Nahid Islam yesterday.

"On that day [August 3], we will be at the Shaheed Minar. If the government fails to publish the July Proclamation and Charter by then, we will launch another movement across the country, taking students and the people with us," he said at a rally in Magura as part of the party's country-wide 36-day July Padajatra.

Yesterday was the tenth day of the programme.

The NCP procession began from Magura Sadar Upazila Parishad around 1:20pm and concluded at Vaina intersection with a brief rally.

Addressing the gathering, Nahid



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CONSENSUS TALKS

Parties agree to end arbitrary CJ pick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties reached consensus on two key issues, including the appointment of the chief justice, on the 11th day of the second phase of talks with the National Consensus Commission yesterday.

All 30 parties present agreed that article 95 of the constitution, which governs Supreme Court judge appointments, must be amended. They proposed that the president appoint the chief justice from the two senior-most judges of the Appellate Division, unless either is under investigation under article 96.

Article 96 outlines procedures for the removal of SC judges on grounds of misconduct or incapacity.

The parties also agreed to reinstate a caretaker government system, calling for a flawless mechanism that reflects the country's democratic legacy and avoids future disputes.

However, discussions on emergency declarations remained inconclusive, with several proposals on the table.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting at the Foreign Service Academy, BNP Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed said, "We've agreed the caretaker system must return ... but its structure and mechanism is still being worked out. More proposals will be placed in the next meeting."

On judicial appointments, he added,

OTHER ISSUES AGREED ON

- Restoring a caretaker system; structure and mechanism yet to be discussed
- Reforming articles 141B and 141C to prevent political misuse of emergency powers
- Removing "internal disturbance" as a ground for declaring emergency in article 141A

"The proposal, if applied, will limit arbitrary choices."

National Citizen Party Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain, however, raised concerns over the discretion involved in choosing between two senior judges. "We recommend appointing the senior most judge to prevent partisan bias. In the past, loyalty influenced appointments. We want a specific law to ensure transparency and consistency."

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad also said, "We propose amending article 95 to mandate appointments strictly by seniority."

Another major point of debate was the

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BNP urges EC to ensure polls atmosphere

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday urged the Election Commission to swiftly complete election preparations and ensure an environment conducive to polls.

"We hope the Election Commission will act accordingly -- we demand that the polls be free, fair, and acceptable to all," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir while addressing a discussion titled "Journalists' Role in the July Uprising".

The event was organised by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at the Jatiya Press Club.

He also thanked Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus for instructing the EC to finish poll preparations by December.

Expressing hope, the BNP leader rejected concerns from some quarters about the election being held on time.

"Why wouldn't the election be held? The people of this country want the polls. They have sacrificed their lives for the election. They want a parliament with elected representatives."



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EC wants power to void result of constituency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With preparations underway for the upcoming national polls, the Election Commission (EC) is set to propose legal amendments to restore its power to cancel the election results of an entire constituency if irregularities are found.

"We had the authority to cancel [results of] individual polling centres. What we didn't have was the power to suspend the entire constituency's result, which was once removed. We have proposed to get that authority back and hope it will be restored."

Election Commissioner Abul Fazle Md Sanaullah disclosed the matter during a press briefing yesterday following the EC's 8th commission meeting.

The meeting, held at the EC headquarters and chaired by Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, also decided that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) will not be used in any future elections -- national or local.

Additionally, the EC finalised its decision to allow expatriate Bangladeshis to vote using IT-supported postal ballots.

The initial cost of this process is estimated at Tk 48 crore. A new project will be launched for online registration, through which registered expatriates will receive postal ballots and return them to the designated returning officer.

Explaining the process, Sanaullah said, "There are two types of registration. First is voter registration, required by law. The second is OCV (Overseas Citizens Voting) registration, which will now be done entirely online."

He added that although online voting is being explored, it will not be implemented in this election cycle.

"We might reach the trial stage, but not the actual voting stage yet."

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ATTACKS ON MINORITIES 258 incidents in first half of 2025

Says Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 258 incidents of attacks on minorities, including 27 murders, took place across the country in the first six months of 2025, according to the Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad (Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council).

Presenting the data at a press briefing at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the council said that from January to June, there were 27 murders; 20 incidents of violence against women, including rape; and 59 attacks on places of worship involving vandalism, looting, and arson.

It also reported 21 arrests or incidents of torture following blasphemy allegations; 87 attacks on homes and businesses; and 12 cases of forceful occupation of property, including houses, land, and commercial spaces.

Additionally, the council recorded four incidents of physical assault or forced resignation; 12 attacks on indigenous communities; and 16 other incidents such as abduction, disruption of religious ceremonies, and various forms of intimidation.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the figures or claims presented.

Manindra Kumar Nath, acting general secretary of the parishad, said the data reflects a continuation of violence against minorities, which intensified after the 2024

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THE OCEAN LOUNGER

A coral hawkfish rests on a coral, thus the name, in the Bay of Bengal off Saint Martin's Island.

These small, solitary predators feed on crustaceans and fish, preferring to perch on coral or rubble rather than swim. Found across the Indo-Pacific, the males are larger and more colourful, often guarding territory during breeding. Females can transition to males -- a trait known as protogynous hermaphroditism. Lacking swim bladders, they use thick pectoral fins to prop themselves up on corals. Though listed as "Least Concern" by the IUCN, coral reef degradation poses a growing threat to their habitat and long-term survival.

PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

PUSH-INS BY BSF

'Help find my missing mother'

Indian man urges authorities

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

An Indian man earlier this month appealed to authorities in Assam to help find his elderly mother, who has remained missing since she was allegedly pushed into Bangladesh by the Border Security Force (BSF).

Abdul Subhan, 33, a mason by profession, sent a letter on July 1 to the superintendent of police in Hojai district, Assam, seeking urgent steps to locate his ailing mother, Mustt Misma Khatun, 72.

In the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily Star, Subhan wrote, "On May 24, 2025, around 5:00pm, Hojai police officials took my mother from our native house for interrogation in connection with a

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